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Organized Energy.

By John Dennis.

A deal of thought has been given to your request for my views on labor questions, before framing a reply. Not that my views are of any particular importance, but because I believe that these questions are of paramount importance to the well of the city, the state, the country, and the world.

While labor organizations have been in vogue for many years, it is only within a comparatively short period that they have come to be viewed in the clear light of political economy and weighed in a true balance.

In the first place it must not be forgotten that skilled labor forms, in reality, an enormous vested capital, and that without human endeavor or energy properly applied, capital, considered as money, would be nerveless. Hence, under the present light, skilled labor assumes a certain dignity and importance which sound political economists do not underestimate.

Let us figure a bit, right here, as an illustration of the point I am trying to bring out. It will, I think, readily be conceded that \$2.50 per day is a very low average for skilled work; but I want to assume such low average for present purposes; the figure itself is in this case arbitrary. Yet the work of one man, at the price named, for three hundred days in a year, means the employment of a capital, or addition to the resources of any given plant, of \$75,000 for one year. If you have fifty members of Local 44, and they are each employed at \$2.50 per day, it means a capitalized energy or force, which is equal to a cash capital of \$750,000. Assuming that you have only fifty locals, with an average membership of fifty, working at this con-

cededly low price of \$2.50 per day, your capitalized energy represents a cash fund amounting to the snug sum of \$37,500,000, assuming as before that money is worth 5 per cent.

We are dealing for the present with the electrical industry with which we are familiar, but we must remember that the same principle holds good in all other branches of skilled, or for that matter unskilled work. Now, if I have made my illustration clear, we are better prepared to consider questions arising from this peculiar combination of energy with the power which controls and directs it; a power which we sometimes unthinkingly regard as the real and only capital invested in any given industry.

I shall not take up any of your valuable space with arguments upholding the dignity of labor. If my proposition is true—and it is merely an axiom of political economy in another dress—no arguments are required to point out the importance of this vast amount of energy to the body politic. Take away this energy; which it suits my fancy to clothe in its true colors as capital, and the world would be an uninhabitable desert. When a little group of fifty skilled workmen represent a capitalization of from three-quarters of a million to upwards of a million dollars, it would be rank folly, verging on insult, to make a plea for its importance.

There is still another view in which skilled work should be regarded, when entering upon a discussion of its many and somewhat complex problems. Did you ever stop to think how little anything else than labor enters into many fabrics? Take, for example the modern battleship which is valued in its complete form close to five millions of dollars. How much of real capital—in the common acceptance of the

term—enters into the make-up of this monster fabric? Not many years ago, in company with a guide, I visited a tract of some six thousand acres of virgin forest land in the heart of the Adirondack mountains. It was said to contain a mountain of high grade iron ore; so high indeed, that it was susceptible of being transformed into steel with remarkable ease and economy. The six thousand acres were sold for six thousand dollars, and an iron producing plant erected. I had occasion to trace the first fifty thousand tons of the output of that mine, and I found that it was used for the manufacture of steel rails and the skeleton of steel war ships. The entire output of that mine, from that day to this, has been taken from less than ten acres of the land originally purchased. It will thus be seen that the raw material from which these immense engines of war are evolved is practically nature's contribution to the fabric. Now, how much of the completed value is represented by the element of labor, regarded in the light of real capital. As a matter of fact, the only capital, other than skilled energy, is a matter of credit and skill in utilizing the enormous energy-capital required. In the most liberal construction, it resolves itself to credit, management, and credit for the item of fixed charges on the plant. In its last analysis labor constitutes nearly the entire capitalization—for the men who design the craft and who direct the management, are but high-grade skilled workmen.

The great problem of to-day, in this behalf, is how can this vast amount of energy so make itself felt as to secure a proper proportion of the reward for the expenditure of energy. It is seemingly obvious that proper, well-conceived organization must be regarded as the first step towards this end. Logically, organization should

be along certain well defined lines. First, the organization into particular guilds or crafts, and the organization into bodies which shall become more and more concrete. Indications are not lacking that the general tendency of organization, pure and simple, is on satisfactory lines. I think recent utterances of men prominent in the work of organization warrants this assumption, yet I am strongly of the opinion that the real strength of organized labor is to be found in the local organization. Unless the foundation is well and strongly laid, there can be little hope for the continuance of the structure. It is, then, to the constituent parts of a great organization that we must look for hope for the betterment of conditions. Unless these constituent bodies are founded upon righteous principles, and conducted for the greatest welfare of the members, there can little good result from an aggregation of bodies, however pretentious it may become.

Having tried to point out and emphasize the importance of labor in the affairs of the world, regarded only as capitalized energy, let us look into some other phases of the question. Years of observation have shown me that there has been not only great advancement of men in their respective crafts, but in a general way, not entirely connected with their daily vocation, by reason of the educational and social influences which are inseparable from a proper organization of craftsmen. In other words, by increasing their skill, by an interchange of ideas and broadening of thought, they have vastly increased this capitalized energy that we have been considering, and thus made themselves of far greater value to the world at large. While much of this result may be ascribed to natural and general progress, by far the greater advancement has, in my judgment, been owing to the advantageous features of organization.

My first proposition is, therefore, that improvement in conditions begins in the local organization. Space will not admit of enlarging, at this point, but I want to bring out a few ideas which are pressing on my mind, having just now in view the electrical industry. I do not wish to be misunderstood,—I am not making any invidious comparisons, when I say that the avocation of the electrical workman offers exceptional advantages for widening and broadening the scope of the intellect. The phenomena which enters so fully into your daily avocation, forms to a great extent an unexplored country. The nature of your avocation is such that, whether you will or not, you are constantly in a state of inquiry.

Now, to go back a bit. What can be done to conserve the interest of this enormous capital, represented by the energy or force of the skilled workman? When all the cobwebs with which the matter of organized labor has been surrounded have been swept away, I fancy this is the real,

tangible problem. Shall a skilled workman try to work out his own salvation, by isolating himself and utilizing his energy without reference to his fellows? Shall he join others in a quasi organization and place his interests in the hands of one man or set of men, who will utilize the energy as may seem to him or them just? or, shall he unite with his fellows in a genuine combination which is an independent unit, the leaders only possessing such power as may be delegated to them, and whose only function of office is to carry out the will of the majority, after a well defined policy has been mapped out and adopted in constitutional form?

If I read the signs of the times correctly, the tendency of to-day is to the two extremes indicated in these three questions: Either to work independently without regard to organization, or to work under the most approved and most effective methods of combination. The time when a large body of intelligent, skilled workmen, was willing to place its interests and the interests of its individual members in the hands of one man, to be used for good or for ill, as the judgment of such person or body of persons should dictate, has passed. The reasons for this need not be pointed out; they are obvious to anyone who is familiar with the history of guilds, crafts and unions.

It would seem that the better thought of to-day inclines to an intelligent concrete organization in each particular industry in each city or town, as the foundation of all organization of skilled labor. The reasons for this would seem to be readily apparent. Each industry has interests which are peculiar to itself; and, while such industry is one of many having some common interests, it is surrounded by conditions which are essentially its own. These interests must be conserved by each separate industrial organization, without referring to the special interests of organizations of other industries. Once this is accomplished the question of joining with other industries in still further organization is one which can only, under present sentiment, be decided by the will of the members, to be determined by such vote as may be constitutionally provided.

We are thus forced to the conclusion that the only method by which an organized body of skilled workmen can be satisfactorily maintained in its concreteness, is to confine all delegated powers to the will of the majority of the organization or of some other proportion, as may have been deemed wise. Thus: an over-zealous representative cannot, if hedged about with proper constitutional limitations, so act as to contravene the wishes of the body which he represents.

This idea seems to me to be most excellently exemplified in your own executive board. A local union, by its majority vote,

delegates certain powers to its representatives which it sends to the bi-ennial convention. While at that convention the delegates act for the local, in carrying out the desires of the local as designated in the vote by which they were selected. Acting as such representatives, these delegates—still under the majority rule—select certain constitutional officers for the national body, who with others, constitute an executive body. And it is the clear duty of such executive body to carry out the wishes of the entire organization, being also governed by the inexorable rule of the majority.

It will thus be seen that, theoretically at least, all power committed to the executive body is delegated according to the constitution, and delegated only. This brings us back to the local body as the source of all power in organized bodies of skilled workmen.

Now, from this standpoint, how can an organization of the energy of skilled workmen be most efficient? This is the real question, I take it, upon which you solicit my views.

Leaving aside, just for the moment, the question of cohering local bodies into national organizations, and finally national organizations into concrete units, there are many advantages arising from association. This is particularly true of the particular work in which you are engaged. Intelligent men improve their own acquirements by close and fraternal contact with other members of their particular craft. In fact, I know of no other industry of which this axiom is more true than of the electrical industry in its practical phases. Everything which adds to the intelligence of a body of men whose energy represents capital in the world's work, adds just so much to the aggregate of that capital. Whether this advance be realized upon at once, in the form of remuneration or otherwise, does not change the fact; the additional capital is there. And what is true of the electrical industry, is true, in its own way, of every other skilled craft, whatever its nature. Added skill in one's craft, then, is one of the legitimate ends of an organization of skilled workmen.

We have just had a pat illustration of another legitimate power which goes with proper and well-directed organization—still for the present confining ourselves to the local union. Mr. Thomas H. Forbes, of Detroit, acting with a committee of his local, succeeded in bringing about a radical change in the conditions in the matter of overhead wiring of a municipal electric plant, which made for the better protection of the lives of the workmen engaged upon that plant. When Mr. Forbes and his committee appeared before the common council of Detroit, the fact was recognized that he was not only in the right, but that he was the constitutional repre-

sentative of a body of men who were determined to demand their rights, in a regular and proper manner. You have but to turn this incident in other lights to realize the power of organized energy—capital—to secure its legitimate recognition, in a legitimate way.

I know of no better illustration of combination of energy, under conditions analogous to those pertaining to well-ordered organization of skilled labor, than the multiple working of a number of generators with the output going to the bus bars. In this case absolute harmony is essential to good work; if one of the machines lags greatly, it soon becomes a burden to the remainder; and too much of this sort of burden breaks the combination and renders it valueless. In its integrity the result is everything that can be desired, and all work for a common end. But, when one of the machines is running as a motor, trouble begins.

Unless there can be harmony of purpose in a local, it does not require a prophet to see its finish. Without this same harmony prevails among the integral parts of a grand body, it will not hold together very long. Any combination of grand bodies, representing different industries, must be thoroughly endowed with the spirit of unity and guided by the golden rule of the majority, or the bonds will be but a rope of sand. In its last analysis then, the elements of permanence are to be found in the integrity of the local, and in the restriction of delegated power to carrying out the will of the majority. If, at this point, it be urged that locals cannot agree with each other, then it can only be said, in such case, that there can be no satisfactory association of locals. If it be still further urged that grand bodies representing different industries cannot agree to the point of affiliation, then it is difficult to see how harmonious action can take place. Still again, if majority rule does not prevail in a local, its disintegration is but a matter of a short time. I think, however, it will be found that harmonious action along certain well defined and conservative lines is not difficult, when counsel is taken of majority rule. Men may differ, and properly so, on non-essentials, and still stand closely together for the great essential principles of their craft.

One of the strongest bonds of brotherhood is to be found in a conservative, well-edited, advanced trade journal, devoted to the industry which it represents. It is to the trade journal that people outside of any given organization look to form opinions regarding that particular organization. If the public finds matters of interest to the organization intelligently treated; not only by the editor, but in communications and articles by the members, there can be no question regarding the good impression they receive. A trade

newspaper or magazine will not be greatly in advance of the order it represents; and it can easily be made to aid greatly in advancing the interests of any given organization. In this connection, you will, I trust, pardon me, if I digress for a moment to compliment the Brotherhood on the clean journalistic methods of the Worker. It is an ideal trade paper and its usefulness is not entirely confined to the industry it represents.

Now, to sum up this matter: I have said that I think the source of power of organization is in the local body primarily, and that it is the local body principally upon which the proper utilization of the capital-energy must depend for conservation. The general body or bodies will not be more than abreast with the units of which they are made up. Now, what can be done in a practical way for the advancement of skilled craftsmen, through the medium of the local organizations, for convenience still confining ourselves to the industry with which we have identified ourselves?

In the first place, I fancy, the most important function of an organization is to enable its members to compare views, reach a decision upon matters pertaining to the trade, and act in unison, whatever the situation, when once a course has been determined upon. Whether it be a question of hours or wages, or provision for the safety of workmen in a hazardous vocation, the systematic aid of disabled members, or any other proper subject, there should be full and free discussion. Whatever of differences may exist, they should be fought out behind the closed doors of the assembly room, to the end that a united front should be presented when the time for action arrives. Here we have, in a nutshell, the true principle of unionism. The moment that a local or any other primary organization divides on a question, there ceases to be the union in which all agree is strength. The assembly room is the place for the settlement of all differences; and all differences in the grand body, which are not susceptible of arrangement and settlement, through delegated powers must, in a well-ordered organization, be relegated to local bodies for majority adjudication.

Many questions of interest in the matter of benefits by way of insurance, and also questions of co-operation obtrude themselves in this connection, but I have already trespassed too much on your space.

Advocates Education.

Baltimore, Md., Jan. 10, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Local Union No. 27 has completed a very successful epoch in its history, and it is the earnest desire of every union man in this city that our efforts to make the lot of the workers easier and to establish con-

fidence in our organization, universal, will be crowned with success in the near future. Ignorance, that bitter enemy of progress and advancement, must be educated up to the standard of every conscientious union man, "The greatest good to the greatest number." Activity in the betterment of the condition of one's fellow man often tasks and sometimes injures a man, personally, with that class which education is happily and speedily placing in the hopeless minority—the unthinking, selfish, grasping individual, ambition, which destroys all that is true and fair and square in a personality that could be used for better things.

Inasmuch as the new press secretary of this local will represent Baltimore in this edition, and as we are well aware that "there are others," we will pull the switch and put in heavier fuse on our secondaries for future use.

PARKEL.

LAND VALUES.

How They Affect the Producer and the Remedy.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 25, 1898.

Charles H. Thuner and S. Broadway Merchants Ass'n:

Dear Sir and Gentlemen—After listening to your earnest delegation at Local No. 3, Electrical Workers, I have felt like expressing myself as to the conditions you are trying to relieve. We wish to arrive at the same place, but I have to differ with your association as to the way to get there.

I think where we differ is in our understanding as to what is property. With me a moral wrong can never become a legal right and I can not indorse what will not bear the moral test of logic. Is the department store a benefit to the community or is it a monopoly? I think the public the best judge and they have a right to sell in the dearest and buy in the cheapest market, and the fact that your body had organized to relieve their competition is evidence they are underselling you. We are all free traders in every day life, and your line of fight will be a losing one if for no other reason. They are not monopolies as they have no special legislative privilege conferred on them, and there is nothing to prevent idle capital embarking in the same business. To confound them as such is to hide the real monopolies.

You appeal to the labor unions because of the bond of sympathy, as the same cause that is reducing your profits (wages) and forcing you out of business is lowering our wages. But what makes this cut-throat competition between storekeeper and storekeeper and labor and labor, and makes getting a living so hard when wealth of all kinds is so abundant is something of a more far-reaching effect than the department store. There is a common cause for this condition in all countries and all

places and that fundamental cause is land monopoly.

As countries become populated, land values rise, and as this is seen a great part of the land (farin, coal, oil and city lots) are held for speculation out of use, thereby adding to the speculator a profit without his adding any wealth to the world, but on the contrary standing between the producer and his natural element, holding idle what must be used to produce human wants, thereby making land artificially scarce so the wealth producer has less of his own products, as all producers contribute directly and indirectly to the enhancing land value that is made by holding some idle.

It seems to me in examining this question we cannot evade the economic truth that all wealth produced is divided in three shares; labors' share is termed wages, capitals' share is termed interest, the third share to-day goes to the landlord as rent. Now what share is it that has always increased? Is it not the landlord's? Have not land values as a whole increased and have not wages and interest correspondingly decreased? Your profits are your wages as the price of a farmer's products are his wages, and, as land has been monopolized and its value increased, your profits have decreased. I do not see how we can come to any other conclusion than as a non-productive business such as land owning becomes more profitable the productive business becomes unprofitable such as farming, keeping store or working for wages, for the former must draw from the latter, as it produces nothing.

If we would be first we should ask for only what is ours by natural right. When we get that we will have all we produce and any thing more is asking for something some one else has produced. How it is we are not getting what our labor produces is, collectively, as a community, we make the value to land and allow the landlord to take it—as a community we make this value and it belongs to the community—as justly as an individual product belongs to the individual who made it.

Our interests are identical. If the city, state and nation collects what is rightly a public fund there will be no valuable vacant lots in our cities, as there would be no profit in them except for use according to their value; that certainly would open opportunities to idle capital and labor, as their earnings would be their entire product, that is they would not pay tribute to land monopoly, as their purchasing power would be according to their ability and not according to their opportunities as now. When all have profitable employment they will exchange their different products and the merchant would facilitate the exchange by keeping in stock what is wanted, thereby saving the time and expense to producers, and the question whether you

would participate in the increased business is whether you could serve the public more economically than others having the same goods.

With free opportunities men would apply their labor to supply their wants in their own natural way better than some could advise them. Our aim in giving expression to our legislative body should be that they are not a body to legislate from some for others but they are to secure to the individual his or her natural right. The notion that legislation is necessary for the weaker ones, though they produce all the wealth, is not consistent. If there were no enactments in favor of the non-producer they would not have the power to take what they did not produce, and the great difference between the rich and the poor would soon disappear with that legalized power gone.

If we are wealth producers (all are that add to the welfare of society) let us be done asking for legislation that will give us an advantage but demand that all shall have an equal opportunity to use the earth by taking the value that is made by all for all.

E. H. BOECK.

3950 Kennerly Ave.

Conservatism did more at our late convention. They adopted a resolution favoring direct legislation, (the initiative and referendum) but why was it there were no delegates sent to the convention of all organizations (called for the purpose of getting together on some one reform measure) that met in St. Louis a year ago?

At that meeting they adopted the same resolution that our convention has, and now if we really desire what we declare we do, we will accept all kinds of company that has the same purpose in view we have, and if we fail to make the best of our opportunities we will not deserve to have the power of making our own enactments.

The fundamental object of our organization is to better the condition of the people, as it would be impossible to materially lift ourselves above the general condition. There are no prescribed rules to do this. Of course, there has been a method followed, but there is no constitution for that or any other method of bettering conditions. The forward step must be taken with others; no individual organization is strong enough alone, even if all acted as a unit.

Direct legislation is the one measure all can work for, though we may differ widely as to what is needed after we get it. Having it, there is no means of our representatives thwarting the will of the majority, and we can only blame ourselves for the conditions we would make. Its greatest advantage will be that with ever so small a number thinking a certain measure necessary to better conditions, they have

a simple and direct method of expressing themselves by petitioning the legislature; then that body must act upon it. If they fail to pass the measure it is referred to a direct vote of the people. A petition to repeal a law or contemplated act of the legislators that is petitioned against, unless favorably acted upon, must be left to the popular vote.

The demagogue politician will not find so easy getting into office on a platform that is so much a glittering generality that it means nothing, as the voter will feel that his ballot will accomplish more than to put some one in office, thereby giving them a job.

Whether we are single taxers or socialists (as all reformers are either a part of one or the other, if they have not fully accepted either) let us work for direct legislation. What we want can much easier be had, and either is preferable to the present order, where those that produce must be obliged to get the opportunity and let the idler have the abundance his industry makes.

E. H. BOECK.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH.

Our Wasted Opportunities--Advocates More Effort.

Editor Electrical Worker:

DEAR SIR:—In reading the last month's Worker the thought comes to me how little we appreciate of this world's goods. Here we are in a free country (comparatively); free speech and writing and a publication of thoughts which will broaden and cultivate our minds and still we do not grasp the chance, but keep to the isolated phrase I don't know what to write about. This common expression is heard every day. Instead of letting one another know our thoughts for the betterment of our condition, (we have one of the best opportunities), viz: we have no censor, or no one to censure us for mistakes, but we may have critics. However, criticism is only education and education is what we want, and plenty of it, for we never can get to know it all. There is always something new to learn, so, for that reason, the brother who has been elected P. S. has been honored by his organization, I call it an honor and it is one, and one with responsibilities which are not considered nor studied deep enough. Of one idea, I will try to illustrate the drift in general of the scribe, viz:—

Local No. ——. Well, brothers, I missed my letter last month, but I will try to make up for it; well, brother so and so has joined us again, and so we had a few short circuits and a fuse is gone out, and, well I guess I'll have to pull the switch until next month. So long.

Well, ain't that nice? We really got a letter from Local No. —? What did we learn? What was the lesson? What was

accomplished? (Ans.) Nothing. Well, I said nothing; may be I was mistaken; I should have said, yes we have learned something, we have learned that there was a Press Secretary in that section of the country, but in giving any information that would convey any knowledge or any conception of learning he has failed. He stopped his writing just where he had begun on nothing, and ended on the same. Thanks to some of the Brothers, it is a great pleasure to read some of their writings. But they are no better than the Brothers who failed. This is the point—they take an interest in their work and strive to make it interesting. Their education ain't any better than yours, but they try to cultivate a talent. We can all train our thought the same way if we would only try, and success would follow. I am not trying to discourage anyone, but trying to make them realize their own position. A good many will say there is a chronic kicker. Where did he spring from? Excuse me; I have never been quoted as that yet; but for explanation, here's my idea. See if I ain't right. The eyes of the world are watching what we are doing and how we are governing ourselves, and how we are striving to unite our efforts in making progress, for it seems that the one idea of all Monopolistic corporations to further their ends, is one for discussion in the ranks of any Order. But they are surprised at the present at not being able to find any fault in that line with this organization, therefore we deserve respect, and it is not only wages and hours that we want, but that accorded to all who deserve it—respect. It has a whole lot of meaning to it and does more to build up an Order, than all the organizers put together; in fact, it is the organizer for all institutions. We are trying to gather together the men in our craft, not for the sole purpose of getting their sixty cents a month, but to elevate their ideas and make them a potent factor among men.

Who should feel prouder than this organization as a whole at the success achieved; or who deserve better merit than Bro. Forbes and the rest of the brothers of 17? They aimed for the betterment of their condition; defeat stared them in the face; in their own ranks were some doubting ones, whose very words I will quote: "You are going up against a strong game." True it was; but discouraged, but not dismayed. Obstacles lay in their road; they put their shoulders to the wheel and with combined efforts started a wheel that was supposed to be immovable; and may God give them strength and courage to keep it moving until they have reached that goal, unbounded success. All praise to them, they deserve it. We in this city have that same aim and our path is not strewn with roses, but nevertheless we will continue until we can write that word success.

Therefore, brothers, that should be the aim of every one striving to accomplish something that will be a betterment of your condition or mine, also the organization. It will be well worth the trying. So my motto to you all would be, "Don't fail to have a letter for the Worker; don't fail to try and make it interesting." But bear in mind to try to have something that is educational; you will receive your reward many fold. Don't sit down and start a letter with: There was nothing happened our way out of the ordinary; that is a poor excuse; if you don't know of anything to write, inquire of the brothers; they can start you going and you will be surprised at the success you are having, besides the benefit other brothers will get in reading your letter. But also, Bro. Sherman will not be putting in any excuse that he had to leave the Directory out because of want of room in that number of pages. I have a good suggestion to make. I notice we have a solicitor to gather advertisements for our journal (?) But where are the advertisements? We have none,—and whose fault is it? You can answer. But here is my idea: Each local in its respective city should have a solicitor who could be paid a premium for getting ads for this journal, the price to be adjusted by the E. B. or Referendum; and, now this is the first of the year, this is the time to start to work; and if we do, there is no reason why enough advertisements could not be got to make the paper more than pay for itself and put money in the treasury. Besides, it would add a Directory to our journal where we could discern all firms favoring union labor. There is no reason why it should not be a success. I hope all the brothers will answer me on this subject; for example, if each local get but one ad. figure up what that would amount to and you will find a balance to the good for the Grand Treasurer and a paper with some information. Now, the fundamental principle of Brotherhood is co-operation, and without that you always find success missing; and I know all brothers will concur in what I say; and may the Worker progress and be a journal sought. Give me your verdict next month.

PITTSBURG.

IN CALM CONTENT.

A little smoke lazed slowly up from off my big cigar,
The club chair was both soft and warm, as club chairs sometimes are.
The bottle hobnobbed with the glass just where my arm was bent,
And there was naught for me to want—unless it were content.
For longingly I gazed away, all through a golden haze,
Back to the time that comes but once—back to my boyhood days;
I closed my eyes to better see that happy land of charm,
The long-lost days when free from care, I lived back on the farm.
* * * * *
I slowly stretched my weary frame—who knocked upon the door?
"Get up! Get up! you lazybones, it's nearly half-past four!"

The night before I'd sparkling been and reached home rather late—
To-day I'd plow the old stump lot through the hours more than eight.
The days went by and took their time, those "days of golden charm,"
And Satan found no mischief for me down there on the farm;
And some days it was piping hot and some days it would rain,
But always was there work to do—of jobs an endless chain.
I picked potatoes without stint—the sun bored through my back;
I swung the knife amidst the corn until my arms did rack;
I sweated at the old grindstone, I cleaned the stable floors,
And did some eight and forty things that lightly are called "chores."
One blessed night, 'most tired to death, I tumbled into bed—
* * * * *
And woke to see an angel's face on Sambo's sable head;
He brought another bottle in, relit my big cigar,
And back I leaned in calm content that things are as they are.

—Philadelphia Press.

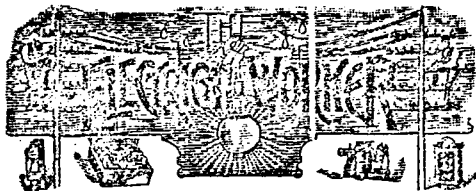
Almost Defied It.

LIVES 20 MINUTES AFTER RECEIVING 2200 VOLTS.

Knew He was Dying, But Talked to His Companions, Left Messages and Gave Directions for His Funeral.

Dallas, Texas, Jan. 3.—One of the most singular deaths from electricity ever reported occurred here to-day. August Rosenfield, after having 2200 volts shot through him from a live wire, lived twenty minutes, entirely conscious, talked rationally and freely and expired before medical aid could reach him. Rosenfield was employed as a lineman by the Standard Light and Power Company of Dallas. He and other linemen were stretching a wire near the Episcopal College in the eastern suburb of the city, Rosenfield by accident caught hold of one of two live electric light wires strung on the poles he was working on. He uttered a cry of pain, fell into the net work of miscellaneous wires and was frightfully burned, particularly in the palms of the hands, before he was removed to the ground. The forehead, the neck and the left side of the face were badly discolored. As soon as he was stretched out upon the ground the unlucky lineman began to talk with his comrades. He said that he realized that he was dying, that he felt kindly toward all of them and said goodbye to each. Tears rolled down the cheeks of the roughly clad workmen as they gazed upon their comrade and hoped in response to their telephone call that medical aid would arrive from the city in time to save him. It was more than two miles to the nearest doctor's office, however, and Rosenfield expired shortly before physicians reached him and twenty minutes from the time he grasped the fatal wire.

Just before he died Rosenfield stated that he had relatives living in San Antonio and a brother in Dallas and gave messages to be delivered to them. He also dictated instructions as to what he desired in the way of funeral ceremonies. He was 30 years old and unmarried.



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As The Electrical Worker reaches the men who do
the work and recommend or order the material,
its value as an advertising medium can be readily
appreciated.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., JANUARY, 1899.

W. N. Gates, Special Advertising Agent,
29 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, O.



WHEN brothers fail to receive their
papers, kindly send name and address to
the general office. It is our desire that
each member in good standing receive the
paper. It is a hard matter to convince
some brothers that the United States mails
are ever at fault, but, nevertheless, a great
many failures can be laid to them.

IT is the editor's desire to have the
Directory as complete as possible. To
that end in sending in names of officers
elected be sure to state the address of
each. Also state whether time and place
of meeting is correct.

ANY of the brothers knowing the where-
abouts of Patrick Mitchell will confer a
favor by sending his address to J. T.
O'Brien, 1011 Leffingwell Ave., St. Louis,
Mo.

Tom Rises to Explain.

Editor Electrical Worker:

In my letter in the December number I
made a slight mistake in referring Carne-
gie to the Bible. I referred him to the

26th Chapter of Luke. I should have said
the 16th Chapter. I made the mistake on
purpose, just to see what would happen.
If I had referred him to the 16th Chapter
all the boys would have turned to the 16th
Chapter, read that and nothing more. By
referring to the 26th Chapter they would
see at once that a mistake had been made,
and begin to hunt for something that
would fit in, and by so doing would per-
haps take in a number of chapters, which
would do them no harm and may be some
good. See? Great scheme, that.

YOU'RE UNCLE TOM.

OUR LOCALS.

Local Union No. 5.

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 1, 1898.

Editor Electrical Worker:

As we wish to see No. 1 again in print, I
will let you know the few interesting events
that happened. We missed last issue on
account of our Press Secretary being on
the ball committee. We had as fine a ball
as was ever given by a labor organization.
The hall was beautifully decorated with
evergreens and the old banner was framed
in evergreens and miniature lamps. We
had a large crowd and everybody enjoyed
themselves. Lights out at 5 A. M.

This has been a very good winter so far
for inside wiremen, but the present cold
weather has frozen up a few large jobs,
and all the boys are not working steadily.

We held election of officers, and we did
have a hot time in the old town that night.
The following officers were elected:

President—C. W. Campbell.

Vice-President—G. D. Buck.

Financial Secretary—"Old Reliable," P.
C. Fish.

Recording Secretary—Paul Ettinger.

Treasurer—J. T. Kelly, "The Only
Kelly."

Inspectors—P. Coughlin, C. H. Reahr.

Foreman—J. Huff.

Trustees—H. Ellison, Wm. Hildebrandt,
L. O. Annett.

Press Secretary—Wm. R. Lewis.

We are glad to hear of our Detroit breth-
ren's victory, and congratulate them. We
hope that the Worker will have more of
the same kind to chronicle.

The National Building Trades' Council
held a convention at Kansas City, Decem-
ber 10, 1898, and took into their Council
the Chicago Building Trades' Council,
with whom the "Mechanics" are affiliated,
and are trying hard to enroll New York
also. The Brotherhood of Electric Work-
ers is affiliated with the same B. T. C's
in nearly every city except Chicago and
New York. We feel that the N. E. T. C.
has done the Brotherhood a great injustice
in taking in Chicago Council, as the Elec-
trical Workers (Mechanics) in Chicago are

not National Brotherhood men. Immediate
steps should be taken to overcome the
evil that now confronts the N. B. E. W. in
all parts of the United States. We would
be glad to see other Locals take up the
fight (for fight it will be) to protect the
Brotherhood.

Fraternally yours,

OHM. SIFTER.

Local Union No. 5.

Pittsburg, Pa., Jan. 8, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

As Press Secretary for the Smoky City,
will say that by some mistake, I believe, we
have more grips than we need for, although
we use only one, the other uses us and of
course we just have to submit and take our
little bottle of pills and sweat it out, as our
voltage runs rather low with this ailment,
and that miserable chill, I can feel him still
(in fancy), slips up and down our vertebrae
even to the chattering of the ivories, saith
the scribe.

Well, work is rather slow, in and around
the town, so I would advise any of our
traveling brothers that our town is not a
very seasonable place for work just at this
time, although we look for a better opening
in the spring. We still continue to gather
new timber, which is always gratifying to
us all, i. e., the ones who have the interest
of the union at heart. You may think such
talk strange, but I am only speaking for
the good, solid timber which, when placed,
remains so, and, of course, in remaining
where placed, performs its own particular
office. It don't make much difference if it's
only a little chip or wedge so it's in place
and in use. 'Tis better to be than not, and
still better wear out than rot. Our meet-
ings are becoming a little more interesting.
We have partially started what was for a
while the laughing stock of the organiza-
tion, viz: Practical electrical discussions.
It seems as if some had a case of big head
for small subjects, or the case of know it
all but didn't want to tell, while others
were timid and afraid to speak. The Bible
says "open thy mouth and it shall be
filled," a truth literally true in a secular
sense as well as a religious one. Open up
and ask questions; we are not such wise
acres that we are too old to learn any more.
Mr. Editor, I think if the educational fea-
ture of our organization is worked up to
what it should be it is one of the grandest
schemes for individual benefit that could
be devised. It is not in a sense a primary
department for babes to work on, but
it is a sort of post-graduate course, as I see
the possibilities. Some of our brothers
have volunteered to take charge of the
black board exercises for the next evening
and we all expect to be benefited by their
efforts. By the appended clipping you
will see we are not asleep, but are on the
same line as Detroit. Although we have
not accomplished our ends, we hope to in

the near future ; because we mean business and believe this the only possible solution of the standing menace to which the public has been subjected by inferior (cheap John electricians).

At a meeting held at our rooms, Mr. Morris W. Mead, Superintendent of the Bureau of Electricity of the City of Pittsburgh, gave a very interesting talk and gave us to understand they would support us, and in return he expected ours, and this we intend shall be carried out to the full intent ; because our interest must be mutual from the standpoint of public safety, and because it is justice to all concerned—the owner, the wiring contractor, the wireman, the inspector. We hail the day when we shall have an examination for electricians, to put up our little examination fee and, if successful, receive our certificate to practice our chosen vocation, and also in addition to the certificate, each successful one should wear a badge of some sort in connection with the examination, proving the wearer to be a licensed electrician of the City of Pittsburgh. We think that this is in line with our policy of expansion for Greater Pittsburgh, and we want to help the advancement of our city, of which we can justly be proud, all we can. If all do their duty we will be able to realize the full fruition of our efforts to accomplish by proper legislative enactment the licensing of all electricians in our vicinity, and that the fire of progress may spread to many towns and accomplish much good, is the ardent desire and wish of us all.

NOTE.—Through the columns of our paper I wish to correct Bro. Robert G. Wright. Local No. 5 sent six dollars, of which \$5.00 was from our treasury and \$1.00 an individual donation from Bro. William A. Evans, but Local No. 41 of Buffalo received the credit. It seems very strange that such a mistake should occur, but around the Holiday season some people lose their heads for a temporary spell and this is likely how the mistake happened, along with the Oh be Joyful. Its because of the smallness of the amount we want credit for it, that's why we holler ; so cough up Bro. Wright and make your spiel and correction, because we want credit for value received, be gosh, see ?

J. H. STOFFER,
Press Secretary.

WANT STATE LICENSES.

A bill will be presented to the state legislature when it meets on January 3, 1899, providing for the licensing of electrical workers by the state, in a manner similar to that pursued in licensing plumbers. The bill has been prepared and it will be introduced through the efforts of Local Union No. 5, National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of America, located in Pittsburgh.

The matter has been under discussion

among the members of the Pittsburgh local for some time, and they have also asked the views of electrical workers in other parts of the state in regard to the matter. A member of the organization in speaking of the matter to a "Leader" man this morning said that so far every man who had been spoken to in regard to it, favored the passage of such a bill. "So much defective wiring is done," he said, "that fires often result. The two last fires in Pittsburgh, in the Jackson building and also in Gusky's store, were charged to defective wiring. Now, if the wiring is to blame, it is because the electrician who does the work does not understand his business. It would not make any difference whether the wires were insulated or not, if they were put up right, they would never cause a fire. There are a large number of men who pose as electricians who never had more than three or four months' experience before going on as journeymen. These men wire a building carelessly, and after their own ideas, instead of following the rules provided for safe and practical wiring, and when a fire results, the electricity is to blame. I believe that every electrician should be licensed, and that no man who is not able to pass a satisfactory examination should be allowed to work on any building. The plumbers are compelled to undergo the examination before they can work at their trade, on account of the danger to health from defective work, and why shouldn't the state put some safeguards around the lives of the people, which are endangered by defective electric wiring."

A meeting of Local Union No. 5 will be held this evening, at which the matter will be discussed. The scale committee is also expected to report this evening, and it is expected that they will also be able to state that every electrical firm in the city has agreed to pay the scale. Heretofore electricians have been receiving from \$1.75 per day up to \$3.50 and \$4. The scale fixed by the union is \$2.50 per day, and as far as known there are no objections raised to this scale by the employers.

Local Union No. 7.

Springfield, Mass., Jan. 10, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker :

Having the honor of being elected to that much envied office of Press Secretary, I will endeavor to have No. 7 represented in this month's Worker. Some seek for honors, where others have honors thrust upon them, which holds good in this case, and I think Bro. Max was one of the hardest pushers in thrusting this honor on your humble servant. We have had our nominations and election of officers, and it passed off quickly and quietly ; we nominated every man in sight, and if any member was not nominated it was simply due to the fact that he was not present, and it is an actual fact that some of our members

once in a while miss a meeting, but I am getting off my subject. I will try and give you a list of our elected officers. We elected almost the entire old board of officers. Our tall brother, George T. McGilvray, will still be addressed as President, while Bro. Tom Maloney will take Bro. Gus McConley's place in the Vice-President's chair, and Bro. Lynch will, as heretofore, take the minutes (and hours) of the meetings ; Bro. Mat Farrell will, as usual, take in the long green and hand some over to our tried and true Treasurer, T. H. Bowen. Frank Cignolice, our veteran Inspector, will see that all the boys have the pass word and grip (not gripper). Bro. Byron will see that none but worthy brothers enter at the door. Bro. A. Hangton will act as trustee, and Bros. Farrell, Bowen, Maloney and Dresser will represent us at the Central Labor Union. No. 7 is rather quiet at present, no new members coming in and most of the boys out of town, and work rather quiet, but all the boys are working.

Bro. Joe Stanford is on the sick list, but we all hope to see Joe on deck again soon. Bro. Turney is still confined to his bed, not having regained the use of his limbs since his unfortunate accident last May.

As this is my first letter to the Worker I will not take up too much of your valuable paper. In closing I would say that I am heartily in favor of a question box, and think a column of your paper should be reserved, under proper heading, for questions and answers.

Respectfully,

"THE JUDGE,"

Press Secretary.

Local Union No. 8.

Toledo, Ohio, Jan. 4, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker :

Our most important topic to write about this month is the success and notoriety of our dance. Appended find newspaper clipping which describes our decorations, etc., to the queen's taste.

Work in Toledo is fair for this time of year. The Gen. Elect. Co. has the contract for the Ford Glass Works.

Hoping all the boys had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, I will draw to a close.

Yours fraternally,

J. J. DUCK,
P. S.

Memorial hall probably never presented so brilliant a scene as was witnessed on the occasion of the first annual ball of Local Union No. 8, National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The management of the ball spent much time and money on the decorative features, and the effect was all that could have been desired. The ground work for the electrical display consisted of a mass of bunting and national

colors, all arranged with a view to the most artistic effects. Over the large platform, arranged in a setting of red, white and blue, the letters formed by small electric lamps, was the word "welcome" while at the opposite end of the room, arranged in similar manner, appeared in bold relief the words, "National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers." At the right of the room and just above the gallery was a large American flag composed entirely of red, white and blue electric lamps, while on the opposite side of the room was an immense anchor constructed entirely of the red lamps. Extending from the apex of the roof to the top of the gallery posts was a perfect labyrinth of red, white and blue rope work, from which were suspended fully 200 wreaths, composed of national colors, each wreath having an incandescent electric lamp as its distinguishing feature. In addition to the hundreds of incandescent lamps, there were seven arc lights. All told, about 1500 incandescent electric lights were used in the illumination of the hall. An additional illuminating feature consisted of four calcium lights. At intervals during the grand march and cake walk, which took place later in the evening, the electric lights were turned off and the vari-colored calcium lights thrown on the merry-makers who thronged the dancing floor. Such an electrical display was never before made in Toledo. It reflected much credit on the enterprise and skill of the young men who had charge of the affair. This was the first experiment of the kind in Toledo, but its success means that similar displays of even a more elaborate nature will be undertaken in the future.

The grand march, which took place about nine o'clock in the evening, was a most beautiful spectacle. Nearly 500 couples participated. The march was led by Mr. W. J. Gilsdorf and Miss Martha Oberly, assisted by Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Schausten.

Another feature of the ball was the cake walk, which took place about 11:30 o'clock. The participants were Master Ted and Miss Fisher, brother and sister, both of whom reside in Toledo; Mr. Eddie Banton and Miss LaRose and Mr. John Newman and Miss Paine, also of Toledo. The walkers were led by Mr. Phil. Milner. The prize was awarded to the first named couple.

During the evening, the gallery was crowded with spectators who found great pleasure in watching the brilliant scene below.

The floor and entertainment committee consisted of Mr. E. W. Schausten, Mr. Marryott, Mr. W. J. Gilsdorf, Mr. J. J. Duck and Mr. M. Luttenberger. On the reception committee were Mr. Joseph Sharp, Mr. Earl Miller, Mr. Fred Gensbuechler, Mr. H. J. Baker and Mr. F. L. Lucas.

Local Union No. 10.

Indianapolis, Ind., January 3, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

I believe it is my turn to say hello and tell where I am at, why I went, what I am doing there and all about it.

Well, No. 10 is still up to date and, although we are not connecting up as many lights as usual, the circuit continues to test O. K., and we propose to stand no foolishness. Every light must test full candle power this coming year, or rather

the year we are now starting in upon, and, brothers all, this means that you must, each one, come up with the stuff. I want to state here for the benefit of all lag-behinds, for I know there are many in the different locals, if you are in the local just for your own selfish interest you will be the last to get your card, but if you have the interests of the local at heart, and also of the trade everywhere, and if you want to further the cause of the electrical craft, you will be men, and the next meeting of your local will find you paid up at least for this quarter. Brothers, don't you think that such an act on the part of the members would cause every officer to do his duty as he has never done it? If you doubt it, try it and be convinced. Don't think that I am advising something that I don't do, for my dues are paid until April 1st. My policy is, pay before you get dunned.

The electrical business about Indianapolis is rather slow just now, but there is apt to be a great deal of toll line work for our new Tel. Co., perhaps more than 200 miles; we have not heard exactly. We do know that material has been ordered to start with, and the work is expected to commence in about two weeks. Any information I can get in regard to any work in or out of the city I will be glad to submit through the columns of the Worker. The City Council of Columbus, O., has several applications for franchises to build a telephone plant, but as yet I have heard nothing definite. If any brother can give me any definite information at any time I will be very grateful. If Columbus is successful in getting an opposition telephone company, let me say to all who may go there to work one of the first and the most essential things in that city is a local. If the trade in that city could be organized you would find it a good city to work in, but there are several there who are bitter against it. Cheap labor has always been employed, but at the same time there are many good men there who work at the business, both inside and outside, and they are men that I know would be glad to help a union to the front; but a town is bad when a fourteen-year-old boy and a negro are working right along with the rest at about the same pay. I understand that the Central Union is making a bitter fight against opposition there, as usual, and why shouldn't they? With the exceedingly high rent for their telephones and cheap labor, they have got a gold mine. One of their men told me one day that laboring people did not need big wages any more, for they had learned economy since the hard times of the past few years. We know what he is at, and there are others we know of, some there and some here in Indianapolis, that I know, and I may tell where to find a few before I have finished scribbling this time,

for I am almost full enough to jump up and pop open, and have been for the past week or so especially. If I had been built for an orator or a stump speaker or something of the kind, I surely would throw the hot air into some people about right, but, unfortunately for me, I am not able to frame into suitable language the good things that are in this thick old head of mine. I can talk to a few all right, but in a big crowd I get stage fright or something of the kind, if you know what that is. But I can ask as many questions as that little brother, and if some one will volunteer to answer them I would like to ask along the line of money matters, bond issues, and who buys them, our good government contracts let for furnishing rotten food for our soldiers in the late war. Dudes, with little brains and lots of money, and a "pull" for officers, etc. It may be with me, in politics, like my father said about an infidel that stuttered badly. He said it was a good thing that fellow can't tell what he wants to; it's a good thing for certain people anyway. It may be that some won't like my style of writing, perhaps No. 10 won't, but if there are any kicks send them to 645 Arch street, this city, for No. 10 was foolish enough to elect me for Press Secretary for this year, and if I am not asked to resign the guilty must take their medicine, and any whom the shoe fits can wear it. I think that it will be a benefit to the locals of the N. B. E. W. everywhere if the Press Secretaries will try to do better this year than they did last. Come, brothers, be men, not mice; don't be afraid to write.

Well, we had our annual election of officers, and we are ready for business in earnest this year. The officers elected are as follows:

President—John Berry.

Vice-President—S. B. French.

Recording Secretary—George Beecher.

Financial Secretary—L. E. Jones.

Treasurer—Phil Hayden.

We had a very interesting meeting last night. We had a great deal of important business to attend to, together with installation of officers. We meet every Monday evening at 8 P. M. in Mozart Hall, 39 S. Del. St. Hoping this letter will not tire you or the readers, I am

Fraternally yours,

E. E. BAUMAN,
Press Secretary.

Local Union No. 12.

Brooklyn, N. Y., Jan. 9, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

As you must know by this time Local No. 12 is hotly engaged in open warfare with (as it has been designated by the Central Labor Union of Brooklyn) the "Scab Union," otherwise known as No. 3 of this city. The occasion of branding them thus was brought about by No. 3 bringing

charges against us before the C. L. U. which could not be sustained, and they were proven to be the transgressors. We are amply encouraged by the support we are having through fresh blood enrolling under our standard "The National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of America." It seems too bad that there are those in our craft who are so thickheaded they cannot understand their power. If they would only combine under the standard of a legitimate union, whose purpose would be for the welfare of all, but not as is selfishly maintained by our adversaries, No. 3, of this city, what an enormous power they could wield for their benefit.

The 28th ult., election of officers resulted in bringing into active service some of the brainy element of the local. The following is a list of the officers chosen to manage its affairs:

President—W. W. Vaughn.

Vice-President—J. Schiller.

Recording Secretary—Chas. L. Rogers.

Assistant Recording Secretary—H. N. Knight.

Financial Secretary—Frank G. Ortt.

Treasurer—A. Hokensen.

Business Agent—Robert Speir.

Press Secretary—John Dean, Jr.

Last week I had occasion to drop into the Western Union building when the following incident occurred: Observing a fellow-craftsman engaged in renewing some voltaic cells I approached and engaged him in conversation. I asked if he was a union man, when he explained he was a member of the Brotherhood, also of our opponents, No. 3. I tried to impress upon him that in being connected with No. 3 he was arraying himself against the principles of the Brotherhood. He acknowledged the truth of my assertion, but claimed he could not join our local until he saw us more permanently established by us giving No. 3 a whack upon its solar-plexus. I claim, Mr. Editor, that it is due to such material as he that such renegades as No. 3 exist.

Fraternally yours,

"JUNIOR."

Local Union No. 17.

Detroit, Mich. Jan. 6, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

I thought last month's letter was my last, but I find I have this one to write yet, so I hope you will be patient with me just this once more.

The election of officers has taken place and the following are the ones chosen to man the good ship No. 17, and with such a crew she will certainly have a prosperous voyage and land in a safe harbor. Just listen:

President—R. Scanlon.

Vice-President—J. Shane.

Recording Secretary—Geo. Brown.

Financial Secretary—T. Forbes.

Treasurer—T. Brasseur.

Foreman—J. Hogarth.

Inspectors—J. Hersou and J. Turner.

Delegates to Trades Council—L. Timme, T. Forbes, G. Brown.

Delegates to Building Trades Council—J. Shane, J. Turner, Geo. Brown.

Trustee—E. Hawes.

Work is pretty fair in Detroit this winter. I don't know of any idle union man in the city at present and that is what I call pretty good, considering the time of year, and in a city as far north as this, and where we have such unmercifully cold winters as we have here in this part of the domain of your Uncle Samuel.

We have had remarkably little sickness among the members this winter; not a man on the sick list at present. No. 17 has an exceptionally robust membership. I think at least ninety per cent. of them can lick their weight in wild-cats, and the reason of it is we have very few of what you could call "chronic booze fighters."

That was a good suggestion from the member of No. 41, advocating the giving of a cash New Year's present to Bro. Robert Wright, and we were much pleased that Bro. Sherman endorsed the idea in the editorial columns. We took up a collection and I hope all the locals did the same, for it is a worthy thing to do, to assist this needy brother.

Applications are coming in steadily. Non-unionists are being shown that it is policy for them to get into the ranks and the good work goes right on merrily. There were one or two rabid non-unionists in Detroit who were always running the Union down, but one of our good husky brothers intimated that if they didn't let up, that he would pull their noses out by the roots and exhibit them as a new brand of potato. Now they are quietly trying to get into the Union. You see they all come to time sooner or later.

A couple of our boys were accused of pilfering. Some were on the outskirts of the town. The detectives and a penny-a-liner reporter were on the scene. The detectives said it might be those two boys, because they strung wires past there once. The reporter, of course, with his usual love for truth, put it down that it was them, but when it came to a trial they were honorably acquitted. Did you ever notice that a high-toned scoundrel can steal a million from the people and nothing be done about it; but let a workingman be even suspected of taking anything, and every Pinkerton wolf-pack in the country will be turned loose on his trail.

I wish to announce again that our grand ball and electrical illumination will take place at German Salesmen's Hall, Jan. 19, 1899. It is only a couple of blocks from the City Hall, and every brother should be there and bring the ladies along. The committee has put in lots of time and labor to

make it a record-breaker, and if there is a union electrical worker within one hundred miles who don't come he will get himself disliked.

That was certainly a good piece of advice in the Worker last month about members abiding by the will of the majority. You have probably all seen members, who, if the Union did not vote as they wanted them to, would get sore. That kind of a cus tries to get even by voting "no" on almost everything that comes up. It's all unknown what he don't know,—in the neighborhood of his own mind. He is great on amendments, and seeks to amend everything, whether it needs it or not,—preferably the latter. He sizes up the chairman's seat to see if it will fit him, for he thinks it is only a matter of a few months until an enthusiastic and grateful Union will, upon their bended knees, beg of him to be their president, and they do—I don't think; but after he has had his tail-feathers jerked out in debate by some sensible member a few times he will subside into his seat, and then if anything goes wrong in the union he will wag his head in glee and rejoice in his own cussedness. If there is a good, shrewd president in the chair he can work things so that the actions of the mulish member won't do any harm.

I am happy to state that we are having good attendance and harmonious meetings. No. 17 knows a good thing when it has it, and so of course re-elected Bro. Richard Scanlon for President. He has a happy faculty of calming the troubled waters. He knows how to put on just enough oil on the ball-bearings to make things run smoothly. I consider that we are very fortunate in having "Dick" in the chair.

Before I close I want to say to the union brothers all over the country that unionism is gaining ground, unions gain points now that would not have been conceded a few years ago. These things were fought for. When Lincoln called for troops, my male relatives responded and most of them fell at Gettysburg. What did they fall for? They fell that black slavery might be abolished. Brothers, your fathers fell for the same cause. Shall their sons shrink from the fight to abolish white slavery? Shall not we for this great human cause use to the utmost our tongue and pen? Even if I knew that I sat alone by the only camp-fire of liberty that burned in the Republic to-night I would not keep still, but thank the great "Eternal" I have millions of fellow-freemen who will not keep still. If you want inspiration, think of heroic Eugene V. Debs, who, with courage in a single heart, faced a nation, because he knew he was right, and because the fires of a patriot coursed through his veins. There is inspiration for any union

man in the knowledge that "truth is mighty and will prevail."

Brother Thos. Forbes has been elected Press Secretary. He is a union man from the ground up, and if you go through him I guarantee you will find no packages of "trust" cigarettes in his pockets. And now dear reader and brother, I bid you adieu.

DAN. E. ELLSWORTH,
Press Secretary.

Local Union No. 18.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 4, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Here we are again. I am pleased to report that No. 18 is on the boom and everybody is working. Kansas City's new convention hall is done, and all by union men. No. 18 had her share. Seating capacity 15,000, more than Madison Square Garden in New York. Cost \$450,000, laboring men contributing \$50,000 alone, so you can see what we are doing in Kansas City.

Bro. W. Templin has been very sick for the last ten weeks with heart failure, and has been in bed most of that time. All bothers who can should go over to see him, for he feels very much discouraged.

Bro. Lynch was in town to spend the Holidays. Bro. Lynch is reconstructing the Postal lines from Dodge City, Kan., to Kansas City. He says the boys are always glad to get the Worker, and the first thing they look for is No. 18, to see how things are in Kansas City.

Bro. Frank Schudle has joined the order of benedicts. He distributed a box of cigars to the boys. Well done, Frank, keep up the good work.

Bro. C. H. Adams was a delegate to the A. F. L. of A., and says he was well pleased with the work done by that body. Bro. Adams says that he never met a better lot of men, who were heart and soul in the cause of labor, than they were.

Bros. L. R. Woodworth and J. W. Harper, of No. 17, were up to see us. They gave us quite a talk on 17, and how they were getting along in Detroit. We were all glad to see and hear our visiting brothers, and wish that more of the same kind would come and see us. Bros. Woodworth and Harper are at work on the Auditorium Theatre, a Detroit firm having the contract to rewire it.

No. 18 elected new officers on December 30th, and we mean to push upward for 1899. Bro. Waternous was elected President, Bro. Underwood Vice-president, and your humble servant Press Secretary. I will try and keep up my end of it, so look for No. 18 every month hereafter.

Well, I will close the circuit for this month, as I am afraid of the waste paper basket.

Yours for the cause of labor,
HARVEY BURNETT,
Press Secretary.

Local Union No. 22.

Omaha, Neb., Jan. 6, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

I am not going to make any apologies for this article, except that I am the new P. S.

Work here just at present is a trifle slack, but there is a lot of building contracted for this spring and, besides, the Greater American Exposition is now almost certain of going through.

As will be seen by the Roster, Bro. Chris. Rumboldt is again in our midst and doing finely.

A good many inquiries have been made lately as to why the Worker doesn't show up. Some have been received at irregular intervals, while some of us have not seen a copy for several months.

Among our New Year's resolutions is one to the effect that we are going to make '99 a more prosperous one than heretofore, and, in every way possible, a success. Our presiding officer this term is Bro. W. P. Leedom, and Bro. Rumboldt will assist at the helm.

Bro. Reepil will record our actions, bad and good; and Bro. Wales will receive our fines and assessments. J. E. Brinkman will, if we get more money than needed for our current expenses, attend to its disbursement. Bro. Curry will look to the switch board and attend to the shorts and grounds. I have been selected to inform you of our goings on in this part of the country. Bro. Francis is to be our foreman and the list is concluded with Bros. Tobias, Wheeler and Keebler, for 6, 12 and 18 months, respectively, as trustees.

Fraternally yours,
WILL C. GOOD.

Local Union No. 26.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 2, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Having no news for the December issue, I find myself almost in the same fix this month.

One thing noticeable in the national capital is that you seldom if ever see electrical workers congregated on street corners; and another thing more particularly noticeable is that you never of late see them assembled as they should on every Wednesday evening at Electrical Workers' Hall, 1104 Pennsylvania avenue, to attend to business.

Now, my dear brothers, if you will stop and think for a moment and ask yourself the question, what can I gain by associating with my brother workmen? You may conclude that you can learn a great deal, not only in your line of business, but in everything that goes to make up a good intelligent man. So, boys, come around and look us over. We have not got all the paraphernalia and equipments of the Congressional Library, but you will find a nice, spacious reading room, well equipped with different magazines, (thanks to the land-

lord) a blackboard, on which some of the more learned might educate the dumb, and last, but not least, the crowning feature of our Local in the opening of our charter. All it will cost you to get back where you belong is the paltry sum of two dollars. So, wake up, ye who are dilatory, and on your arrival, be it day or night, you will find our worthy janitor, Bro. Cox, or "Old Sleuth," as he is continually on the track of the "rats," (hence the name), ready to receive you with open arms.

I will now close by stating that No. 26 extends to all delinquent members an invitation to its hall, in its endeavor to regain its lost laurels, namely: The mightiest in the Brotherhood.

O'CONNELL,
Press Sec.

P. S.—If this letter should reach Bro. W. F. White (our late F. S.), Richie begs leave to ask of him how the thermometer stands in his section of the country.

Local Union No. 30.

Cincinnati, O., Jan. 7, 1899.

Editor Electric Worker:

As I met with an accident on December 3d I was unable to get a letter for the December Worker.

Up to the present time I can say that all the brothers of Local No. 30 are at work, although there is nothing that would indicate a rush in the electrical work.

There is one person here that is trying to cause a rush in the business, and that is the City Electrician. He is hot and heavy after the Cincinnati Street Railway Company to put their wire under ground. He is down east now, either at Washington, D. C., or New York, to investigate the underground trolley system. If I have a guess coming, which I think I have, my guess is that there is some one that has an office a little higher than City Electrician that has caused this rush. Let the good work go on; the more the merrier. And I must say the boys from Cleveland that done the work on College Hill and Hamilton road done some good work.

The following officers will serve as follows:

President—Wm. Williams.
Vice-President—J. Williams.
Recording Secretary—Wm. Price.
Financial Secretary—Geo. Hilderbrandt.
Press Secretary—Wm. P. Wheeler.
Treasurer—Jos. Daly.
Foreman—T. Davis.
Inspector—Wm. Sidel.

DOWN THE TRUSTS.

Many of the papers in the country have recently published articles, doubtless at cheap advertising rates, in which one of the greatest trusts in this country was praised and eulogized. I have before me now a letter from a young man who has worked faithfully for a concern for ten years. Last week the plant was absorbed

by a trust, and he, with eighty others, were thrown out of employment. Thousands of men are beggared by this destroying of healthful competition, in violation to the laws of the country. Suppose kerosene oil sold at two cents a gallon, would it benefit a person who was out of employment? Would calico at a penny a yard be cheap to the beggar? Each year the armies of tramps are increasing, and sometime we will be forced to face a labor question on which the fate of the government will depend. No nation can long withstand the frightful burden embodied in Bill Nye's satirical motto, God bless the rich, the poor may beg.

HUMANITY.

Brothers, this is a piece found in one of our dailies, and as my Coal Oil Johnny is about to blow a fuse, I will pull the switch to save poor Johnny.

WHISKERS,
Press Sec.

Local Union No. 35.

Boston, Mass., Jan. 9, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Volunteering to write you last month with the many other scribes I find we crowded you pretty well, but it must have been pleasing to you to see so many respond to your call for letters and correspondence, and while some things had to be omitted, I think the boys must have been satisfied with the sheet you were able to put out. No doubt you will be satisfied if they continue to crowd you, so that you can feel satisfied you are putting a pretty good paper before them. It seems my letter won for me the nomination of Press Secretary, for at the election of the officers of Local 35 I was nominated for that particular office, with no opposition.

While letters have appeared over my signature in several issues of the Worker, this, of course, is the first as press correspondent of Local 35, and, while there is one particular thing I would wish to interest the readers with this month, I have not had the time since my election of getting possession of the facts, and that is the electrical plant of the new Southern Union station, which was opened up here Sunday, January 1st; suffice it to say, the power house and electrical signal and switch system are big departments in themselves. They are located beyond the train house in the yard, and when completed will be among the largest in the country. The heat for the station, besides the electricity, is all transmitted from the power house in the yard. The electric lighting was and is being done by the Lord Electric Company, large contractors of Boston, and who employ none but union men on their work. I am in hopes of being able in my next letter of giving a full description of the plant, the number of lamps, both arc and

incandescent used, number of dynamos, etc.

Since my last letter and during the Holidays I have been around my old stamping grounds at Hartford. I met several of the boys of Local 37, but the familiar face of Bro. Herbert, and the usual greetings from him, I missed, and was sorry to learn that he had only been called home to Stamford, Conn., the day before, owing to the sudden and unexpected death of his father. Brother Herbert had the sympathy of all who knew him; all felt grieved for such trouble coming to him just at a time when pleasures and enjoyment were the order anticipated. I had a long talk with Bro. Tracy, who informed me the boys are lacking that enthusiasm which was so manifest in Local 37. Come boys, wake up, and keep No. 37 in the ranks of the foremost locals of the N. B. E. W., and where you rightfully belong.

The election and installation of officers took place for the coming term, and are as follows:

President—T. R. Mellville.
Vice-President—W. D. Hubbard.
Financial Secretary—Wm. Woodward.
Recording Secretary—J. B. Jeffers.
Inspectors—Henry Buckley, Theodore Gould.

Foreman—Wm. Thomas.

Trustees not elected.

Tickets are being circulated for the Fifth Annual Ball of Local 35, which takes place Tuesday evening, January 17th. From the number of tickets out we anticipate a successful and enjoyable evening, and the handsome and commodious Paul Revere Hall at the Mechanics' Building, will ring with mirth and music, and the light fantastic will be tripped by the electrical workers, their wives, sweethearts and friends to the merry tunes.

Business is fairly good in all lines of work at present, and the weather, well, I can't say much against it, but the wind seems to be blowing in a lot of la grippe. Some of the boys seem to think it is caused by icebergs getting stalled on their way between here and Nova Scotia.

Fraternally,

F. J. SHEEHAN.

Local Union No. 36.

Sacramento, Cal., Jan. 3, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

In my previous letter to the Worker I promised to have No. 36 represented with a letter each month. Would like to give the old song and dance about being too busy to write, but the boys say that don't go any more. Glad to state all the brothers are working and some of them are putting in long hours, especially the telephone men. The recent heavy winds created considerable havoc among the telephone lines. A number of phones got connected with the electric light station with the

usual result, that fire was flying in all directions.

The Folsom Company is changing its lighting circuit from 1,000 to 2,000 volts. The Yuba Company just finished some extensive new lines. During the summer the light company's wire runs on steam at an increased expense. They are now rejoicing for we have rain and plenty of it. It's water that's wanted to make the wheels go round in this city.

Read the letter from Bro. Eldridge regarding a question box with interest. I had the same experience with an electric contractor (?) recently; he could not see the why and wherefore, etc., of the third wire. A question box would be of great benefit to the whole Brotherhood; it would help us over some of our small troubles at times. What happens to one of us may happen to all. Have been very busy of late, and therefore cannot go into any explanation of the above-named enunciator trouble. Will be pleased to take an active part in public discussions.

Should any of our eastern brothers come along through Sacramento, all they have to do is to show us a paid up card and they will certainly get the glad hand from one and all. We hold our regular meetings the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at Federated Trades Hall. The undersigned would be pleased to hear from Chris Ashmusen and Art Longfrey, at one time members of No. 22.

With best of wishes for the success of the question box, I remain fraternally yours,
C. A. SCHNEIDER.

Local Union No. 37.

Hartford, Conn., Jan. 4, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Well, as the new year has opened with every prospect of a prosperous ending to the Nineteenth Century throughout this glorious country, let us, of the N. B. E. W., take a new lease of life and make this last year eclipse all previous ones in the advancement of our Brotherhood. The locals have held their elections now, new blood has been infused into them and, by a little perseverance, we can increase our membership far beyond all previous records, and place the N. B. E. W. on a standing with any trade union in the country.

Local 37 held an election at its regular meeting, Wednesday evening, January 4th. The following officers were elected:

President—W. H. Crawley.

Vice-President—J. F. Quirk.

Recording Secretary—M. P. Sullivan.

Financial Secretary—J. Tracy.

Press Secretary—M. P. Sullivan.

Treasurer—T. F. Herbert.

Inspector—N. E. King.

Foreman—Allen McIsaac.

Trustees—James Hurley, P. J. Burke and P. Hayes.

M. P. SULLIVAN, Press Sec.

Resolutions were adopted as follows :

Whereas, The Almighty God has, in His infinite wisdom, seen fit to call by death from our brother, Thomas F. Herbert, his beloved father, therefore be it

Resolved, That we, as members of Local Union No. 37, N. B. E. W., do hereby extend to Brother Herbert our most tender and heartfelt sympathy in this his hour of bereavement ; and be it

Resolved, That while we sympathize with our brother, we hope that he will be consoled by the thought that he has arisen to a brighter and better life ; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be presented to Brother Herbert, and be also published in our official journal.

JOHN J. TRACY,

WM. H. CRAWLEY,

F. H. ROBERTS,

Committee,

Local Union No. 38.

Cleveland, O., Jan. 2, 1899.

Wie Gebts, Mr. Editor, and more power to yez, also a happy New Year.

If yea pleas I am Press Secretary for No. 38, at your service, and thats why I am writing you this evening. To begin with, I suppose I am expected to tell you something of the condition of Local 38. This L. seems to be in about as healthy condition as any L. within a radius of 7 miles. It has a membership of about 4827, but the average attendance is only about 42½. Last meeting night was election, so the average was slightly above normal, about 46¼, if I remember right. Of the 4783 who do not attend regularly, 375 are out of the city, 128 are on the sick list confined to their homes on the avenue with the grip or sojourning in the mountains enjoying a run of the small-pox; the balance of them, or about 4280, are working nights. Quite a number of them are Sornambulists. This makes night working easy. No. 38 will hold its annual dog fight and turkey shoot on Saturday, February 18, 1899, at Christie Lake. We would like very much to have you with us, Mr. Editor, we would, indeed. But to return to our report. Our President is a large powerful man, with heavy electric blue mustache, and large dreamy eyes. He parts his hair about three points to the right of center, and is not afraid of the cars. He has a firm square chin, denoting sobriety and industry. He has large well developed feet, and a pair of dukes like a mule's foot. These serve him a good purpose when some unruly member insists upon being heard. Take him all in all, he is a handsome, fine looking kid, and is unmarried. This is why he takes such an interest in No. 80, and vice-versa. Our President usually calls around to see us every meeting night, sometimes as early as 10:30 o'clock. Some of the other officers drop in

upon us once in a while. I have known as many as three officers to be on hand in one evening in pleasant weather.

Rule No. 748 of our By Laws makes it compulsory for an officer to be present at least once in six months. By strictly enforcing this rule we get a number of them to attend our meetings. Our initiation paraphernalia consists of a thirty horse power electric hoisting crane, and a double back action steam jointed horizontal steam pile driver. When we put this machinery at work on a candidate, it is necessary that some of the officers be on hand to add tone and dignity to the occasion, and to prevent the candidate from carrying away a bad impression. But in spite of their presence I have known a candidate to carry a bad impression around between the shoulders of his pants for mady a day. But this is the exception, not the rule. Our hall is large and well appointed, about as wide as most halls and not quite as long as others. We have about 45 or 50 chairs, most of them are upholstered in oak or ash. The Presidents chair is upholstered in crimson velvet. The chair of the F. S. is upholstered in sheet iron; this makes a nice cool seat in hot weather. We also have ten cuspidors, with an attendance of forty, this will allow four men to one cuspidor; this is a mistake, there should have been four cuspidors to one man. The new trustees will no doubt correct this evil, as nothing tends to draw the good out of a man more than a big red cuspidor. We have quite an extensive library, also a safe. Our safe has one of the latest patent combined combination locks, and so combined is the combination that it frequently requires the combined efforts of the two Secretaries, together with the combined cuss words of a regular meeting, to manipulate this combined combination and open the safe. Our book cases are built of timber and lumber, mostly lumber. The plate glass in the sliding doors is also lumber. most of this lumber was taken from the pine woods of Michigan and is of good quality. We have many valuable books in our case, among them I notice Hoyle on poker. How to become an electric expert in 2½ hours. The rise and fall of the tenderfoot lineman. Biography of John L. Sullivan. Also several important works by such well known electric authorities as Nikola Tesla, James Corbett, Robert Fitzsimmons, Thomas A. Edison, Thomas Sharkey, Mark Hanua, and Kid McCoy. We also have a red hot stove, size 7x9. The mallet used by the presiding officer was made from the first pole erected in Mulberry Park, Ohio. Most of the boys who are working complain of enjoying good health, while those who are enjoying poor health are improving. Some of our members have taken time by the forelock as it were, quite a number of them are working 6 hours a day for 8 hours pay.

This beats No. 1, to be sure. Our boys put in 8 hours time, but they work only 6, the other two hours is a bluff; 6 hours is our motto with no surrender or compromise. The Bell telephone inducted the home a short time ago. This gave the boys an opportunity to lay off and buy Christmas presents for their wives and sweethearts. Some of them bought as many as two and a half and three presents, just to give away. Oh, they are dead easy, some of these chaps. I got a pair of slippers and a box of cigars for Christmas, and the next morning when I arose from my humble cot and peeped out of the window, I saw your aunt chopping the ice off the front walk, and she had on my new slippers. I at once ran and got my gum boots, went out upon the street and tried to persuade her to exchange. She refused. This shows a lack of judgment, also a lack of generalship on my part, for I had to finish cleaning the walk when I should have been in bed. I notice someone wants a question box in the Worker; that's a good plan. Taking it for granted you will start one in the January Worker. I would like to propound the following questions: First. Is it cheaper to move than to pay rent, providing you have two tons of coal in the cellar belonging to the man who lives in the other end of the house. Second. Which of the two do you consider the most honorable to practise, and which is the safest in the long run, to stand off the landlord or the coal man? Third. Which do you consider the cheapest, pork at 5 cents cash, or beef at 14½ cents, Cr? Fourth. Your aunt wants to know if the annexation of the Philippines will cheapen the price of hired girls, and if the Philippine hired girls are inclined to be flirty. By answering these few questions you will confer a favor upon yours truly.

No. 80 is progressing nicely. I noticed several of them upon the avenue this p. m. and they were all gowned up to the Queen's taste. One of them had on a tailor made suit of some kind of cloth, also a white vest full of polka dots. Another a stunning black hat with plumes 3 feet long by 14 inches wide. Still another had around her a fur mantle, made of the skin of some kind of a wild beast. I don't know what kind, but it looked like a cross between a Persian Lamb and a Mountain Lion. The girls all belong to the Union, and most of them skate and play golf. Some of them have been getting married lately. They (the married ones) will not skate or play golf any more, but they will have the satisfaction of knowing that the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rocks the world.

Some of the boys complain of not receiving the Worker, others say that they don't read it when they do get it. If those who don't get it will let me know, I will see

that they do get it, if I have to scalp the Editor to do it.

To those who do not read it, I will say we are onto you all right. Yet we are willing to be charitable, perhaps you had not the opportunity of learning to read when you were young, if so you are not to blame.

And now, Mr. Editor, I will bid you so long. As I have wished you a happy New Year first, I shall expect a cigar. I gave away all my Christmas cigars to people who wished me a Happy New Year and I shall expect you to do likewise.

Yours truly,

UNCLE TOM.

P. S. I forgot to mention that at our semi-annual we elected the following officers: Stenographer, Richard Hobson Ross; Press Secretary, Thomas Dewey Wheeler. I don't just now call to mind who the rest of the officers are, but as soon as I do I will communicate with you over the long distance telephone. I will also state that we are having considerable fun up this way with the smallpox. If the Lord allows me my choice between the smallpox and grip, I shall choose the latter. I can then set in the house and growl at the women folks; if I get the smallpox I shall come down and spend the winter with you. I would be willing to feed the pigs and milk the cow for my board, although I am not sure I would prove a success as milker, not having worked at it since I was a yearling. I would, however, be willing to sit in the office and say to your customers and creditors, that the G. S. has fled.

P. S. I also might make mention of the fact that this being the first of the year, I have quit doing some things that I used to consider smart. I shall use no more plug tobacco, cereal coffee, or cuss words. Not that I have a grudge against the brewers of this particular brand of coffee, nor because I do not intend to set up any more stoves, but solely on account of my health. Within the past year I have exploded several glass revolvers in my pistol pocket, soaking and drenching my outer garments, to say nothing of my asbestos under garments, besides inflicting numerous and painful wounds upon my person, all of which is quite embarrassing. When in Sunday school my wife also complains that the cuss words I have used to start the kitchen fire when out of kindling wood, have oxidized the silver plate on the sideboard, and soiled the wall paper in the front room. From January 1st I am a changed man. I shall lead a life in the future that shall enable me to look the sheriff or a corn salve agent square in the face and never flinch.

Yours as ever, T.

P. S. Since writing the foregoing I have been requested by many of our best citizens, to urge you to be with us for a few

days during our annual Fox chase and Cock fight, which comes off next month. I think I can assure you a hearty reception by the 400 of Cleveland, if you would agree to give us a short talk upon what you know about farming, or give us your ideas upon expansion and contraction, or on the beauties of a bob-tail flush, or any other subject with which you are familiar. If you will consent to come, we will advertise your appearance extensively and get out a first class audience. If you will consent to make your debut in this city, an effort will be made to secure reduced rates at one of the hotels. If you can stop at a hotel, a brother will be assigned to assist you and explain how to manipulate the machinery of the bathroom and to see that you do not blow out the gas. We will also furnish a detective to guard you from our Medical Students who might undertake to run you into one of our Medical college dissecting parlors. Our Students are ever on the alert for strangers of ability. (This does not signify that all ability is a stranger here, or that all our citizens are strangers to ability), but we will guarantee you a safe return and no questions asked.

Yours as ever, T.

P. S. This (the following) is private and confidential. Should you desire to stop at some quiet place, where you will be away from the cops, we have an elegant room up stairs in the house, it is well furnished with a bed, and also has a sheep skin rug. The bed is a good strong one, that I made from boards taken from a swing shelf, formerly used as a receptacle for canned fruit in the fore part of the cellar. Your aunt wanted the spare room fixed up, so we were compelled to use up the shelf. We have since been compelled to use up the canned fruit. Our regular rates for this room are thirty cents per day and take your meals out. I frequently take my meals out. I also frequently go out without taking my meals. If you will bring along your own bed clothes, we will make a slight reduction in the rates, and if you wish to be real economical you can bring along your own victuals and do your own cooking. If you take our room at thirty cents per day, you can have the use of the kitchen stove from 3 to 5 a. m., also the chafing bowl, coffee mill and piano, from 4 to 6 p. m. If you have not the ready cash, I am willing to take a part in trade. You can mark my per capita paid for 1899, and notify No. 38 that the E. B. ordered it paid out of respect for my old age. I am sure you would be pleased with this room. Last summer during the heated term when the atmosphere was troubled with more humidity than it could handle without more or less going to waste on such occasions, I used to sleep away from the rest of the family and always occupied this chamber. How often have I watched the lovely and enchanting

scenes that are to be seen from the South East corner window. How often have I reclined in sweet repose silent and speechless, and watched with admiration, inspiration, meditation, hesitation, calculation, agitation, donation and damnation, the ever changing panorama floating before me, onward, outward, upward, seemingly losing itself in eternal space, only to return and float some more. How often from this window have I listened to the long drawn out, yet not altogether non-musical pleadings of Thompsons bay setter-pup, chained on the back plateau over fer-ninst the summer kitchen. How strangely did these pleadings sound, when contrasted with the sharp, quick, glad some note, that came floating up from Jobson's henroost, situated immediately under the window. A young pullet has laid her first egg, and with an outburst of joy she is (with pardonable pride) displaying her accomplishments to her friends and neighbors. I listen to the merry peals of laughter as she blushing relates to a circle of friends her hopes and fears in the past relating to her recent experience and her satisfaction with the result, her intentions for the present, her ambition and expectation for the future. Again I see her cheek crimson and her dark eyes flash as with indignation. She hears her brother-in-law offer to bet her first dozen, that her next egg will be a double yolker. Pained, grieved and shocked at such language, she turns on her heel and seeks the seclusion of the flower garden ostensibly to gather in a few grass hoppers, katy-dids and cabbage worms, and incidentally struck up a flirtation with Mulligan's yearling game cock over the garden wall. Such, my young friend, is life in this part of the great city. I am sure you would like it. Still if you insist upon stopping at a hotel, I have a friend who keeps a hotel that I would like you to meet (you can meet either one you like). My friend usually keeps his hotel with him, and by so doing he is most always able to find it, no matter how dark the night, or hard the times. Just now he is keeping his hotel on lower Superior st. I will withhold the name of his tavern for fear I might be accused of using the columns of the Worker for advertising purposes. But you can easily find this tavern as it is the only one in that neighborhood with a mortgage on. It is well kept and managed, yet an unostentatious Inn. Many of our oldest citizens are stopping at this hostelry, any one of which would be able to eat a hearty meal at either the Stilman or Hollenden. Many people high up in society, high up in the walks and field of science, literature and art, have never stopped at this hotel. Of course, I can't be expected to remember all the people who have never stopped at this house, yet I do remember a few, and I will give you the names of some of them. They are the Prince of Wales, Patsy Tebeau, Gen-

eral Blanco, Dr. Mary Walker, Queen Victoria, Jesse James, Fayne Strayhen Moore, Gov. Roosevelt, Tom Platt, Mrs. Langtry and Jerry Simpson. It is situated within easy walking distance of three depots, four boat landings, two police stations, one jail, one morgue, and the headquarters of the Rochester Brewing Co. Its the only hotel in the city that has a gymnasium attached, and the only one that keeps tickets on sale at the City Hall. Located upon one of our richest thoroughfares, built upon a high sloping, well kept terrace, it rears its dome grandly and majestically far up into the clouds of smoke and dust surrounded by scenes rich and resplendant in classic and romantic beauty. One can stand in the back door of the wood shed and look with awe and rapture upon the heaving bosom of the ever raging, roaring, tumbling, turbulent Cuyahoga, or he may gaze with wonder and astonishment upon the massive piers and broad and lofty arches of the mighty viaduct with its broad, well kept promenades and drives, ever teeming with life beauty, moving vans and trolley cars; or he may (if he be of mechanical turn of mind) look upon the great fire boat Farley, the guardian angel of the great city, with its fine array of mechanical contrivances, wrought only after years of toil and labor by the brain and hand of some unknown genius long since slumbering beneath the ice and snow in a poor man's lowly grave, or serving his country in the statehouse at Columbus; or he may look far out into the harbor upon the white winged messengers of commerce freighted with mineral ores taken from the historic Sault St. Marie, or the far away mining fields of Escanaba Alpena, Syracuse and Coney Island; or he may watch the proud and stately scow as she leaves her moorings for her morning plunge. Slowly, steadily, and majestically she plows her way through the waters of the mighty river. On she is towed into the inner then outer harbor, then far far away out into the deep blue waters of the great lake, there to deposit her freightage of night soil taken from the tenderloin district the previous night. I am sure you would be pleased with either place. I have entered somewhat into detail in describing the several places, but I done so that you might know where you are at, and not be deceived by an unscrupulous public in case I should not be on hand when you make your landing. And now my dear boy, I am about to give you a little parting advice but first let me say I am fondly hoping and praying that this letter will be lost, run over by the cars, or blown away by a cyclone before it reaches you, but if it does reach you, I sincerely hope you will have as tough a time reading, as I have had writing it. And after you have read it, don't forget what I have said in about nine minutes. Remember we want you to visit

us not altogether out of curiosity, but because we love you. Remember we are your friends and that we own as much of the country as you do. Remember where we live; remember where you are bound for when you start, and last, but by no means least, do not forget your night shirt and pocket book.

As ever your affectionate

UNCLE.

P. S. I almost forgot to state that I had a large number of my pictures taken for the holiday trade. Now that the holidays are over I will dispose of the remainder at about half cost. Forty cents per lb. is the price, payable in postage stamps. They are a good antidote and preventative of Hay fever, carpet bugs, divorce suits and the gout. They can also be used as a creditor exterminator. A few of them posted in the Worker would reduce the circulation quite a considerable, thereby reducing your expenses and trouble of mailing. There are other purposes that they might be used for but time and space forbid that I should state it here. I notice this is the last sheet on the pad. I also notice this is the last pad, also that I am broke and could not buy another pad if I wanted to. Also that the fire is out and the coal also. That my feet are out (of my socks), that your aunt is looking for the cistern pole, therefore I conclude I had better conclude.

Yours faithfully, T.

P. S. If this letter is too long send it back and I will take a reef in it. If it is too short you can splice it yourself.

UNCLE TOM.

Local Union No. 41.

Buffalo, January 3, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

The older a man gets and the less hair he has to cover his scalp the more some people think he is verging into second childhood and he can easily be made to obey their bidding, and I guess that's so. When I left Local 44 I declared I would not hold an office when I entered 41, but somehow when I get mixed up and interested in the good work for my fellow-workers I hate to make a jumping-jack of myself and decline all nominations tendered, as some do—consequently I am placed as scribe for Local 41, and I will say now—I do not consider the choice a very good one, and it may be quite an expensive one to some of the brothers, for they may have to take something to wash down my articles, as they may be rather dry. As Bro. Wm. H. Kelly was unavoidably absent from our last meeting I shall take it upon myself in behalf of Local 41 to thank Bro. Kelly for the efficient manner in which he has filled the office of Press Secretary for so long a time.

Well, brothers, for my first article from 41 I will say, we held an election of officers

to begin the New Year. For President our selection was a good one, Bro. Jas. Burgess. For Vice-President, Bro. Thos. J. Hogan; for Financial Secretary, the old and reliable war horse H. M. Scott; Recording Secretary, Geo. W. Bass.

With the offices filled with such brothers as the above, and John Albright at the door, I can see no reason why Local 41 should not run along orderly and peaceably.

I would like to make mention regarding an article I wrote last month for the benefit of Brobert G. Wright.

I have found that the idea of a New Year box was most heartily approved by the majority, but the time was too short to raise an amount of any particular benefit to the brother. I understand that Local 45 has started a subscription list which is getting along nicely. Local 41 has done the same, and I have on my list some \$18 or \$20 subscribed, and it will all be forthcoming when called for. I hope that others have done as well and that in the course of a month or so we will be able to carry out a plan somewhat different from the New Year's box. It is this: It is proposed to continue the subscription under the same name and for the same Bro. Wright, but instead of making a purse for him, to have him locate in some city and buy for him a little business, such as newspapers, cigars and candy, which will give to him an independence and make it possible for him and his little family to be self-supporting. Now, brothers, I don't want to take all the space in the Worker, I guess you all understand me well enough to send in your subscriptions to the G. S., and when he has enough to warrant the success of the undertaking then we (all unions subscribed), will devise some means to place the proceeds where they will do Bro. Wright and family the most good.

If any brothers wish to communicate with me in this matter, address,

Fraternally yours,

WM. A. BREESE,

Press Secretary,

330 Vermont St.

Local Union No. 45.

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 20, 1898.

Editor Electrical Worker:

The semi-annual election was held Saturday evening, December 17th, and the following officers duly elected:

President—Frank Devlin.

Vice-President—B. H. Mallory.

Recording Secretary—J. Dingbaum.

Financial Secretary—M. Staples.

Press Secretary—A. P. Addleman.

Treasurer—T. J. Byrnes.

Inspectors—Thomas McDugal, Paul Bretz.

Foreman—J. J. Casey.

Delegates to United Trades' and Labor Council—Frank Devlin, W. J. Steward and A. P. Addleman.

Since the last time Local No. 45 was heard from, Bro. Thomas McDugal met with quite a serious accident. A heavy wagon slid around a corner and caught him between a pole and wagon, fracturing three ribs and bruising him badly. He will be with us soon again, though looking out for more wagons.

The Western Union messenger service linemen are thinking seriously of trying to have their titles changed to that of Electric Engineers, same as Postal Cable Company.

There has not been a great deal of trouble during the past few weeks considering the storms which blockaded all the railroads running east from here.

Just as soon as any trains could get through specials were given to W. U. people and the right-of-way of the road, so that they soon repaired all damage done to their wires. The street railway was tied up more or less, especially in the eastern part of the city, but was soon running as usual.

News is sorter scarce this month, as things is very quiet around Buffalo, and then I feel that I should touch it light the first time, or until I get a little acquainted with the circuits.

There seems to be a great many conflicting theories as to the kind of letters should be written to the Worker. Some says it's dull reading to see that a certain Local met, and that there was a certain number of members in attendance, and that there were certain motions put and carried, and suggest we discuss practical electrical subjects. That would be nice, I am sure, but remember that us aerial birds are not all newspaper men, and should we attempt such we might fall down. So it might be well to continue something near the same old homely lines, and if every local gets in their say our little Worker will be full to running over.

We presume this issue will, on account of election notice, be lacking space, so we will break the circuit for this time.

A. P. A.,
Press Secretary.

Local Union No. 46.

Lowell, Mass. Jan. 6, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

I will again let the boys know what we are doing. Electrical work is quite dull here. All the brothers are not working. At our last regular meeting we installed the following officers: President, H. L. Whitney; Vice-President, J. P. Moore; Recording Secretary, James Barrett; Financial Secretary, Harry Harding; Press Secretary, J. S. Murphy; Treasurer, M. Quinn; Inspectors, M. Hobson, A. Bond; Foreman, Joe McDermott; Trustees, Wm. Day, 18 months, Joe McDonnell, 6 months.

Now that we have a new set of officers, all the brothers should not fail to attend our

meetings. It is all well enough to drop in once in a while and pay your dues; but who are going to run the affairs of your local? Do not forget that the way to disorganize labor is to stay away from your meetings.

The late examination for inspector of wires is one great reason why we should make our local a great success. What a fake it was, and how it was done. Now, is there a man in all this country who you could call perfect as an electrician; yet the examination board in Lowell says there is, and he has not been off the farm such a long time either. Well, anything to throw a good man down; but the office is not filled yet, and Brother Hall has as good a chance as any if we all work to get him there.

Now there is another thing I will say: one of our brothers was amongst some of our Boston brothers lately, and after playing them several times, gave it up, until after a time they bragged unionism and talked about the Portland wreck. Then he became aware that he was with some union men. Tend your meetings, and if Brother Sheehan had come to Lowell he would have met about two thousand with the grip.

As last night's ceremony prevents me from writing any more for No. 46, I will pull the plug, hoping the brother on the hill will do his duty.

JAMES BARRETT,
Press Secretary.

Local Union No. 56.

Erie, Pa., Jan. 2, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Here we are again for a new month and a new year, and No. 56 have elected the same old scribe. It was all quietly talked over at our last meeting, and it was decided that as I had exposed my ignorance for the past year in the Worker, it would be a very poor move to allow any other brother of No. 56 to write to the Worker, as it might possibly be that some had the idea that we had some member that could write a letter, so you will have to stand this another term, hoping we get a new member before long.

I noticed in our Worker that some brother thought it was stale reading when a Recording Secretary only stated in his letter that Jack Perkins was sick and Willie Clevis was fixing a bell in the police station, etc. Now, that's about the only kind of poetry I can write, so I feel a little shocked, but as I am doing the best I can for a good cause, I will keep it up to the same old voltage, hoping you will excuse the resistance.

A few of No. 56's Indians that had a little money and a little sense took a holiday ride on the cars. Bro. St. Clair went to Cory, Pa., for turkey, etc.; Bro. Jacobs went to his home in Taw Was, Mich. I

suppose old Red Pete cut quite a swell up there in the woods, but he couldn't have made half the hit that I did. I went to Middleport, O., to see my little brother, who knows his place better than I do and has settled down on a farm. From there I went to Cleveland. I saw some wirefixers, but did not know them, so I did not present myself to them, but went to the man that owns the N. Y. C. & St. L. R. R. and paid him \$12.35 to ride on his road as far as Chicago. When I arrived in Chicago everybody seemed to be busy looking for Tom and Jerry, and did not pay much attention to me, but I kept right on as though I knew where I was going. It made me a little nervous when I walked under those trestle works where they run street cars up stairs. I asked a man why they run their cars up in the air, and he said it was to accommodate the people living in the second and third flats. I walked along until I came to a telegraph sign, and I thought I would wait there until some kind of a wire man came along and find out about where I was, and at last I saw a man coming with a full set of whiskers, and as he got near me I recognized him to be Bro. Ed. T. Inchermill. Well, I guess I was glad to clinch his old grub hook. He took me around a while, and we met a few up and down men, but not so many as I expected to meet. I tried to be there on Saturday night. If I had been I should have tried to force myself into their hall. I know they would have been glad to have me visit their meeting, and it is possible they would have let me make a few remarks. Well, Bro. Inchermill took me back to the steam cars, and I went down to Three Oaks, Mich., where Mrs. C. was, of course. They all know me there, and I did not cut much of a figure, but I staid around there until my railroad ticket was due, and then I went to Cleveland and won a 1-2 pound chicken at a turkey raffle. Then I went to Erie to see how bills had come in for me.

Well, work is quiet in Erie, but some of the companies are acting as though they might buy some labor in the near future.

At the last meeting the following officers were elected:

President—P. Jacobs.
Vice-President—Wm. Gives.
Treasurer—J. P. Hanlan.
Financial Secretary—J. F. St. Clair.
Recording Secretary—L. E. Carson.
Inspector—George Aylsworth.
Foreman—Frank Carver.
Trustee—J. F. Mulheirn.

Fraternally yours,
L. E. C.,
R. S.

Local Union No. 69.

Dallas, Tex., Jan. 6, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

After remaining silent last month I will write a few lines for this month's issue.

Our local is progressing very nicely. Boys all working.

A very sad accident happened here Tuesday, Jan. 3d. Bro. August Rosenfield was killed. He received a shock of 2,200 volts and fell from the pole to the ground, a distance of 15 feet. There were only two working in the vicinity where his death occurred, himself and Bro. Sid Clayburn. When Bro. Clayburn reached him he was on the ground, unconscious, but he revived sufficiently to say that he was dying, and to bid the boys farewell; then after a lapse of five or ten minutes, he quietly passed away. His death was a very sad and pathetic one, indeed.

He had only been a member of Local 69 one week. The local followed his remains to the depot and notified No. 60, of San Antonio, who took charge of the body at that place and conveyed it to its last resting place. He was a good, sober young man, and we had all learned to love him. At our special meeting the following resolutions were passed:

Whereas, Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, has claimed by death from accident our worthy and esteemed brother, August Rosenfield, and,

Whereas, The sudden removal of such a brother from our midst leaves a vacancy and shadow, that will be deeply felt by all members and friends of our Brotherhood, be it therefore,

Resolved, That we express to his surviving relatives our deepest and most heartfelt sympathy, in this their hour of affliction, and commend them to our All-wise Father, who will console them in their time of trial and deep distress, be it further

Resolved, That our charter be draped in mourning for thirty days, these resolutions be spread upon the records of this union, and published in our official journal.

W. B. COURTNEY,
PAUL BARNES,
CHARLEY BOSTON,
Committee.

Local Union No. 72.

Waco, Tex., Jan. 4, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Well, brothers, as we have got a pretty good start on the new year I will try to help push things along some by writing a few lines to the Worker, for since I read my last month's Worker I know there will be a rush about printing time and I don't want to be left out in the cold. As we are along down the list we stand a good show of getting chopped off. I guess that must be what is the matter with our sister No. 80, and some more of them. Don't think there was room for them. Now that's too bad, but my opinion is if you locals that have been treated so bad will write Bro. Sherman a real nice sweet letter I believe he would let you in once in a while any

how. Say, how about trying a new Press Secretary, or putting a fine on the old ones?

Well I was certainly glad to see so many letters in last month, if we did have to leave out the directory. Now, boys, I am in hopes that so many Press Secretaries will wake up that it will take a Worker twice as large to hold them.

We had a call meeting last Saturday evening for the election of officers, as there were too many sick for our regular meeting.

The following officers were elected:

President—E. Cable.

Vice-President—Wm. Hodges.

Recording Secretary—W. D. Haroid.

Financial Secretary and Treasurer—Jos. Hodges.

Press Secretary—E. P. McBroom.

Inspector—C. F. Marrs.

Foreman—A. G. Thomasso.

Don't think we could have selected a better president and cabinet for the next six months if we had the state to pick from. No. 72 is doing as well as could be hoped for; there are still two or three men in town out of the union but we have their cash, so they won't be out long. We are determined to get every man in town and make him carry his card when at work.

Well, work has been very plentiful this winter for good men, but not so bright for pole-climbers, for they are as common as old shoes.

The S. W. T. & Y. Co. is to have a new \$20,000 building right away. The plans are out and the bids were to go in yesterday. We will have a nice little exchange then. The new company is still nothing but talk. They swore they were going to work on the first, but now they have put it off till the fifteenth. It seems that it was reported over the state that all the telephone boys were out on a strike here last week. For the information of the brothers elsewhere and in justice to ourselves I want to state that there was nothing of the kind. The manager was going to Austin to spend the Holidays with his folks, so the day before he left I asked him if we could have Monday, as most of the boys had made arrangements to go somewhere that day. He said he could not think of such a thing, that we were in too much of a rush, and besides as Christmas came on Sunday we would have to lose it. Well, when I told the boys, they all said they would not work on Monday, as it was a legal holiday and so there was no one worked, only to keep up trouble. Well, when the manager found out about it he did not understand just how it was and why we would not work, but after everything was explained it turned an entirely different light on it, so much so that they paid us for Christmas and also gave us Monday for New Year's. Was very sorry that such a report should get out, but it is all O. K.

now. Well, if I don't close I know somebody will be shut out this time.

E. P. McBROOM.

Local Union No. 75.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Dec. 20, 1898.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Local No. 75 has not been heard from for some time, as our Press Secretary moved out soon after his election and we neglected to appoint another. This neglect has been remedied and we expect to keep our brothers posted as to where we are at.

Things electrical are booming just at the present. I do not know of a man being out of a job. The city is putting in a plant for its street lights and the Edison company is putting in a new lead, while the interior wiremen are busy rewiring for the furniture exposition. The Citizens Tel. Co. is the only company in town that is union, but there is no difficulty in a union man getting a job. If any of the other companies need a man they are perfectly indifferent about the matter, the union never having been aggressive or asserted itself in any way. I expect things will be a good deal quieter after the Holidays.

We are very glad to hear of Bro. Forbes' victory in Detroit and hope the ordinance will be rigidly enforced. I hope Bro. Forbes will favor us with sample questions to be answered by wiremen wishing to do work in Detroit. The council in this city recently passed an ordinance requiring the inspection of all electrical work done inside the city limits, which I think answers the purpose of Bro. Forbes' ordinance and does it more thoroughly, as it is a constant check on poor work. No examination can have the effect that a constant supervision of each piece of work can have. Our rules are very similar to the code of the National Underwrites and, with a few alterations along the line of making a standard cross arm with sufficient distance between inside pins, would have the effect of making line work comparatively safe. I hope some of the brothers will take up this question so that we may formulate some policy that the whole National Brotherhood can work for. What we need is a few principles about which we are all of one mind and which we shall keep in mind, sinking our little local troubles in efforts for the good of the whole union and unions in general.

Press Secretary No. 75.

Local Union No. 76.

Tacoma, Wash., Jan. 2, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

Dear Sir and Bros: Having been elected Press Secretary I will try and let you know a little about No. 76. We have been somewhat dormant here in the past, not even getting a letter in the Worker to let the brothers know what we are doing, but the boys all say they are going to take hold and see if they can't build our local up to

where it ought to be. What members we got are all good ones, and there are plenty more in town that ought to belong, and I think with a persistent effort on the part of each of us we can double our roll of members in a very short time. At least we are going to try anyway.

At our last meeting we elected the following officers, who are all very good ones, unless your humble servant:

President—Wm. Kane.

Vice-President—M. Duley.

Treasurer—F. C. Bayha.

Secretaries (combined)—Jas. Murray.

Foreman and Inspector—C. E. Junett.

Trustee—James Murphy.

I saw a letter from No. 6 in the Worker a short time ago stating Bro. Collins was in Portland. I can inform the brother it was a mistake, for Bros. Collins, Little and Bounds are all here in Tacoma working for the city, and I think a little of our Puget Sound fogs and a few mid-day dews, which I might say are quite prevalent here at this time of the year, does them good, for they are all enjoying the best of health. There is not much to write about in the electric business. The city has its lighting plant, and has been extending the lines and reconstructing the incandescent system to quite an extent, which has kept all the boys pretty busy.

This being my initiatory letter you can't expect much from me, so I will close for this time, wishing all brothers success.

JAMES MURRAY,

Press Sec.

NATURAL TAXATION.

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 1, 1899.

It is more of a rule than an exception in the ranks of trades unionists to ignore sociological questions and to draw the line strictly on political questions, pure and simple. Tabooing of political discussion within the sanctuary of the Union is probably wise, but the freest play should be permitted in the examination and discussion of purely social questions when not before the people for political judgment. Such a question now before the people in its educational stage is that of the single tax on land values, or what Thomas C. Shearman, the eminent attorney and statistician of New York, calls "Natural Taxation." Henry George called it "Single Tax," because the methods he advocated looked to the collection of all revenues of government, national, state and municipal from one source, *i. e.*, the land rated at its site, or location, value. Mr. Shearman calls it "Natural taxation" because, as pointed out by Henry George, the values thus rated for purposes of governmental revenues are a natural product and arise only where governmental revenues are required, that is, in communities where the people are engaged in industry and trade. And it is also demon-

strated that these land values arise in proportion to needs of the community. For instance, in the country districts where the lands are rated by the acre and every farmer is his own fireman and policeman, schools and courts distant and other inconveniences incident to country life, the needs for public revenues are slight and the values of the land are also low, leaving out the calculation of the value of the improvements.

Coming to the town we find more need of public revenues and higher values in the lands, now valued by the foot, and then the great city, where millions of dollars annually are required, we find the land values (of bare lots) running up into the millions of dollars for an area equal to an acre. This proves conclusively that land values are produced solely by the people and are measured by the density of population, and that the poorest child in the greatest city is as much a factor in such production as the richest man's child, hence the government robs the poor child for the benefit of the rich when it permits land owners to charge other people for the use of land and pocket the proceeds. It robs the many for the benefit of the few in two ways. By permitting land values to be taxed away from those who use the land by the so-called owners, and then coming back on the people for public revenues by taxing their personal property, buildings, etc., which are absolute private property, and no government has any moral right to touch it. Then it's bad policy to do so, and still worse to refuse to tax land values. Taxing things that are made by labor is a discouragement to those engaged in production, and if the tax is only high enough the production would cease or revolution against the government imposing it would ensue; most likely the latter. Therefore restriction on production is bad, because it reduces the number of opportunities for man to get work, and at the same time makes the price of the article on which the tax is laid higher, thus cutting both ways as if with a two-edged knife. On the other hand to refuse to tax land values into the public treasury is not only bad public policy, but it is criminal neglect of a plain duty. Land values belong to all the people, not alone because they produce them, but because the land is a heritage to all the people and cannot be bartered, sold or given away to individual persons. To permit private property in the land is to permit the sale and disposal of the birthright of generations yet unborn, and to undertake to set up laws for the guidance of those who come after us with the expectation of it being binding is preposterous and has long since been laughed off the stage of modern political economy. But private possession of land must be maintained. To insure permanency of improve-

ment and the best results of civilization, man must have his right to the possession of a certain area of land upheld by the government. He must have the right to exclude all others, and his right must be enforced by the government. For this protection he should pay. What should he pay? Just what it is worth to him. That worth is measured precisely by the value of his holding, without taking into account anything he has added in the shape of improvements. This kind of a tax system would make things cheaper instead of dearer, because things could be produced cheaper, and would be in greater quantities. Rents would also be cheaper, because the taxing away from private individuals the "unearned increment," (land values) would make it undesirable for anyone to hold land that they did not want to use, hence vacant lands would become free. This would encourage house building, and all other kinds of industry would be stimulated until there would be no involuntary idle man and wages would rise accordingly.

Such in brief is our contention for the single tax. There are numberless arguments that could be presented, but the foregoing is a fair presentation of the practical features of the George doctrine. We do not claim the single tax to be a cure-all for every evil that exists. There are many other reforms necessary, but to bring about all other reforms and leave land values to be collected by the landlords for private gain would give no permanent relief, because reforms increase land values, and under present conditions of land ownership every change for the better would simply increase the amounts the users would have to pay the owners of land.

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OUR 1899 MACKINTOSH

SEND NO MONEY, cut this ad. out and send to us, state your height and weight, bust measure, length of garment from collar down back to waist line, and waist line to bottom of skirt; state color wanted and we will send you this Mackintosh by express C. O. D., subject to examination; examine and try it on at your nearest express office; if found exactly as represented and by far the greatest value you ever saw or heard of, pay your express agent OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE, \$2.95, and express charges.

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From "Old Crip."

Raton, New Mex., Jan. 5, 1899.

Editor Electrical Worker:

The Holidays are past and it's time to send in a few words to the Worker again. Old Crip didn't have much of an Xmas, but he sincerely hopes that all other brothers had an enjoyable time. I dare say that before another New Year rolls around, that some of us will have crossed the river. We can't tell who will be "next." It may be you or it may be me. Well, Old Crip is very thankful that he is still living, although I have had ten thousand people to tell me they had much rather be dead than to be living in the condition I am in. It wouldn't be so bad for a man to be perfectly helpless if he had means to live on and keep himself and family from want, but when he has to drag his withered body from place to place, and from street to street in a feeble effort to sell something to gain his daily bread, it is a very different proposition. Well, I guess we all think "our" lot is the worst, but when I think of the poor blind people in this land then I think and feel that I should be very grateful that I can look around me and see everything and think how much worse my lot would be if I did not have my eyesight. One thing I know—that the members of the locals of this Brotherhood who have sent me money within the last 18 months have kept me from want and made my burden much lighter. I owe a great deal to members of this B., and then the kind and cheering letters that I have received from different brothers, all with a word of cheer for me. A number of times when I have been laying in my bed, weary and forlorn, I have been made cheerful and happy by receiving a letter of cheer from some brother whose heart was beating in sympathy for me.

Brothers, you have no idea how good it makes an unfortunate man feel to have some one speak a cheering word to him or try to help him along some way. For instance, look at the letter in last month's Worker from Wm. A. Breese, of Local 41, of Buffalo, N. Y., in an ardent endeavor to help me. Brothers, such an endeavor could only be actuated by a true, honest brotherly heart, such as has been found to beat in the bosoms of such men as Wm. A. Breese. Although I have never met Bro. Breese, and may never have the pleasure of meeting him, I truly hope I may live to prove myself worthy of the deep and brotherly consideration he has given me. I have not received the New Year's box yet, and it matters not whether it contains one dollar or five hundred, I can assure those that contribute to it, either by word or deed, that Old Crip's heart will beat with joy and his gratitude shall only be limited by his inability to express it. I feel that I owe my life to the N. B. E. W.; its members

have stood by me far and near. They have proven a bulwark and a "rock of refuge" to a helpless lineman and family. Oh! could I only use these withered limbs and hands again! I would walk from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from Galveston to Duluth to shake the hands of those who have stood by me since I have been thrown into this deep chasm of affliction. How thankful I should be! Some time ago I sent 12 copies of my book to Local 72, of Waco, Tex., and although that local purchased nine dollars worth last year (1897) they sent me eight dollars and twenty-five cents more about two weeks ago. They didn't fail to do their part to help the mortemmen, either, some two months ago, when they were on a strike in Waco. I shall always be grateful to them for their generous help. George Lockhart, the Hodges Brothers and in fact all the brothers of Texas have stood by me all along. I received another dollar from the brothers of Local 10, of Indianapolis, some two weeks ago. Bro. E. M. DeMers of L. U. 65, sent me \$2.50, from the brothers of Butte City. Bro. L. G. Hall sent me \$3.00 from the brothers of L. U. 46, of Lowell, Mass., and Bro. Charles E. Fowler sent me \$3.75 from the brothers of L. U. 49, of Chicago.

Brothers, you will all be rewarded some time for your kindness to me and you have my sincere gratitude. By begging pardon of the Editor and also thanking him most heartily for his brotherly words in past issues of the worker, I will close till next month. With best wishes for the health and happiness of every member,

I am gratefully,
ROBERT G. WRIGHT.

KILLED BY A LIVE WIRE.

Five Seconds Sufficient to Kill "Roddie" Christolm, the Lineman.

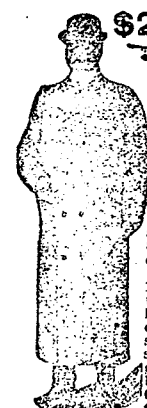
Deep sorrow was expressed among the employees of the Commonwealth Electric company of Chicago on the death of "Roddie" Christolm by coming in contact with a live wire at Fifty-fifth and State streets recently. He was a favorite with his fellow employees, and had been in the service of the company for five years past, and his sad fate, a death all linemen fear, cast a gloom over the entire force.

He was the day "trouble man" of the force, and in company with Ed Duram, who discharges the same duty at night, was engaged in making a connection at the south side of State street and Garfield boulevard. Christolm was working on a pole about twenty feet from the ground, and in reaching for some material slipped and lost his balance. In trying to recover it he grasped a "bare end." Instantly 200 volts circulated through his body. His groans of anguish attracted Duram's attention, and he instantly tore him from the wire, but five seconds or more had elapsed, and that brief period of time was fatal. Duram was compelled to use all his force to remove him. Climbing down the pole with his load he carried the half burned victim to a neighboring drug store. Doctors labored an hour trying to resuscitate

him, but their efforts were useless. Duram, who was thrown into a state of nervous excitement by the calamity, says Christolm shrieked with pain when first the current coursed through his system, but never gave any evidence of consciousness after.

The victim had been in the service of the company for five years, and was a popular fellow and a clever electrician. He was born in Nova Scotia, where his parents reside, and was on the eve of starting east to visit them, not having been home for eighteen years past. He was a member of Princeton Lodge, K. of P., and leaves a host of friends to regret his sad fate.

An inquest was held at McInerney's morgue, 3050 State street, and the remains were taken to his late home at 5757 Union avenue.



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Send No Money. Cut this ad. out and send to us, state your height and weight, state number of inches around body at Breast taken over vest under coat close up under arms, and we will send you this coat by express C. O. D., subject to examination; examine and try it on at your nearest express office and if found exactly as represented and the most wonderful value you ever saw or heard of and equal to any coat you can buy for \$5.00, pay the express agent our special offer price, \$2.75, and express charges.

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Directory of Unions.

Secretaries will please furnish the necessary information to make this directory complete. Note that the time and place of meeting, the name of the President, the names and addresses of the Recording and Financial Secretaries are required.

No. 1, St. Louis, Mo.—Meets every Monday at 601 Market st. Pres., C. W. Campbell, 3526 California av.; R. S. Paul Etinger, 1525 N. 12th st.; F. S., P. C. Fish, 1927 N. 15th st.

No. 2, Milwaukee, Wis.—Meets every Friday at 298 Fourth st. Pres., Joe Harris; F. S., J. H. White.

No. 3, St. Louis, Mo.—Meets every Saturday at Lightstone's Hall, 11th and Franklin av. Pres., A. P. Blackford, 13th and Market, care Garfield House; R. S., J. L. Cuthbert, 2027 Pine st.; F. S., Frank Pierpont, 3223 Mauchester av.

No. 4, New Orleans, La.—Meets 1st and 3d Tuesdays at Carondelet and Perdido sts. Pres., J. McGregor, 2111 Rousseau st.; R. S., A. M. Hale, 630 St. Mary st.; F. S., R. B. Joyce, 331 S. Bassin st.

No. 5, Pittsburg, Pa.—Meets every Friday night in Schmeitz Bldg., cor. Water and Market sts. Pres., H. H. Haas, Oak Station P. O., Pittsburg; R. S., Frank Lunney, 301 Robinson st., Allegheny City; F. S., F. G. Rauldolph, Walnut and Center sts., Wilkensburg, Pa.

No. 6, San Francisco, Cal.—Meets 2d and 4th Wednesdays at Foresters' Hall, 20 Eddy st. Pres., Wm. Barston, 214 Union st.; R. S., A. M. Whitfield, 632 Natoma st.; F. S., R. P. Gale, 1210 A Broadway.

No. 7, Springfield, Mass.—Meets every Wednesday at room 14 Barnes Bldg. Pres., G. T. McGilvray, 30 Besse Pl.; R. S., T. J. Lynch, Chicopee Falls, Mass.; F. S., M. Farrell, 59 Broad st.

No. 8, Toledo, O.—Meets every Monday at Friendship Hall. Pres., C. W. Schausten, 1846 Ontario st.; R. S., W. H. Kessler, 701 South st.; F. S., F. M. Gensbecher, 713 Colburn st.

No. 9, Chicago, Ill.—Meets every Saturday at 106 E. Randolph st. Pres., W. A. Jackson, Eng. Co. 16, 31st and Dearborn sts.; R. S., J. E. Poling, 922 W. 53rd st.; F. S., J. Driscoll, 77 Fuller st.

No. 10, Indianapolis, Ind.—Meets 1st and 3d Mondays at 29½ W. Pearl st. Pres., John Berry, care hqrs. Fire Dept.; R. S., Geo. R. Beecher, 813 N. Senate av.; F. S., Lee E. Jones, 1110 W. Washington st.

No. 12, Greater New York—Pres., W. W. Vaughan, 9 Nassau st., Brooklyn; R. S., Chas. L. Rogers, 134½ Kosciuszko st., Brooklyn; F. S., F. G. Orth, 334 First st., Brooklyn.

No. 17, Detroit, Mich.—Meets every Tuesday night at No. 9 Cadillac sq. Pres., R. Scanlan, 90 Porter st.; R. S., Frank Campbell, 180 Debois st.; F. S., P. Andrich, 985 Van Dyke av.

No. 18, Kansas City, Mo.—Meets every Friday night, Labor hqrs., 117 Walnut st. Pres., F. Hohn, 702 Del. st.; K. C., Kau; R. S., F. J. Schadel, 612 Wall st.; K. C., Mo.; F. S., W. L. Hutchinson, 1605 Harrison st., K. C., Mo.

No. 19, Atchison, Kan.—Pres., F. J. Roth, 906 N. Tenth st.; R. S., H. G. Wickersham; F. S., R. E. Easton, 600 Conil st.

No. 22, Omaha, Neb.—Meets every 1st and 3d Wednesdays at Labor Temple, 17th & Douglas sts. Pres., J. S. Tobias, 2923 S. 18th st.; R. S., J. C. Schneider, 1706 S. 17th st.; F. S., P. L. Myers, 711 N. 16th st.

No. 23, St. Paul, Minn.—Pres., J. H. Roadhouse, 159 Sherburne av.; R. S., E. B. Powers, 551 Bradley st.; F. S., A. H. Garrett, 201 S. 6th st.

No. 24, Minneapolis, Minn.—Pres., O. R. Shortall; R. S., W. I. Heywood, 16 E. 26th st.; F. S., P. H. C. Wood, 2731 Tremont av. S.

No. 25, Duluth, Minn.—Meets 2d and 4th Thursdays at room 6, Banning Bldg. Pres., R. Thayer, 24 Third av.; R. S., L. P. Runkle, 17 Norris Bldg.; F. S., Jas. F. Owens, 414 E. First st.

No. 26, Washington, D. C.—Meets every Saturday at 528 Louisiana av. Pres., John Hoffecker, 1007 N. Carolina av. S. E.; R. S., J. C. O'Connell, 930 E. st., N. W.; F. S., G. A. Malone, 48 L. st., N. W.

No. 27, Baltimore, Md.—Meets every Monday at Hall cor. Fayette and Park avs. Pres., W. W. Welsh, 1420 Aisquith st.; R. S., Wm. F. Kelly, 405 E. Lanvale st.; F. S., F. H. Russell, 1408 Aisquith st.

No. 30, Cincinnati, O.—Meets 1st and 3d Mondays at 136 E. Court st. Pres., Wm. Williams, 26 Mitchell av., Mt. Auburn City; R. S., Wm. Price, 1016 Celestial st., Mt. Auburn City; F. S., Geo. R. Hildebrand, S. E. cor. 3rd & Broadway, Mt. Auburn City.

No. 31, Anacosta, Mont.—Pres., Thos Dwyer, care Elect. Light Co.; R. S., J. F. Reed; F. S., Chas. McDonald, Carroll, Mont.

No. 32, Lima, O.—Pres., O. G. Snyder, 822 High st.; R. S., W. Holmes; F. S., Wm. R. Kraus, 213 E. Wayne st.

No. 35, Boston, Mass.—Meets every Wednesday at 49 Bennett st. Pres., T. R. Melville, 21 Motion st.; R. S., J. B. Jeffers; F. S., W. C. Woodward, 10 Church st.

No. 36, Sacramento, Cal.—Meets 1st and 3d Tuesdays at Foresters' Hall. Pres., J. S. Marsh, 600 7th st.; R. S., O. Buckius, 1415 D st.; F. S., F. O. Hutton, 1617 M. st.

No. 37, Hartford, Conn.—Meets every Wednesday at 603 Main st. Pres., W. H. Crawley, 23 Spring st.; R. S., M. P. Sullivan, 22 Village st.; F. S., J. J. Tracy, 58 Temple st.

No. 38, Cleveland, O.—Meets every Wednesday night at 356 Ontario st. Pres., Geo. H. Gleason, 110 Maple st.; R. S., C. J. Minch, 16 Salzer st.; F. S., A. Herron, 4 Wallace st.

No. 40, St. Joseph, Mo.—Meets every Thursday night at Brokaw Hall, 8th and Locust sts. Pres., Frank P. St. Clair, R'y Co.; R. S., Wm. T. Dorsel, R'y Co.; F. S., J. C. Schneider, City Elec. St. Co.

No. 41, Buffalo, N. Y.—Meets every Wednesday at Council Hall. Pres., Jas. A. Burgess, 664 Main st.; R. S., Geo. W. Bass, 169 Vermont st.; F. S., H. M. Scott, 363 N. Morgan st.

No. 42, Utica, N. Y.—Pres., W. T. Carter, 68 Neilson st.; R. S., G. O. Carter, 26 Elm st.; F. S., F. Danaher, 210 Broadway st.

No. 43, Syracuse, N. Y.—Meets 1st and 3d Tuesdays at McCarthy's Hall, Market st., opp. City Hall. Pres., A. Donovan, 310 Niagara st.; R. S., F. N. Stiles, 734 E. R. R. st.; F. S., Wm. H. Gough, 108 Hawthorne st.

No. 44, Rochester, N. Y.—Meets 2d and 4th Wednesdays at Odd Fellows' Hall, State st. Pres., John Keenely, 50 Frank st.; R. S., A. L. Denniston, 14 Baldwin st.; F. S., Fred Martin, 50 Champailla st.

No. 45, Buffalo, N. Y.—Meets 1st and 3d Saturdays at Council Hall. Pres., F. Devlin, 711 Virginia st.; R. S., J. Dingbaum; F. S., M. E. Stable, 46 Kail st.

No. 46, Lowell, Mass.—Meets every Thursday at 202 Merrimack st., 3d floor, room 5. Pres., Lester G. Hall, P. O. Box 292; R. S., H. L. Whitney, 6 Puffer av.; F. S., R. V. Cole, 169 Mt. Hope st., Pawtucketville, Mass.

No. 47, Worcester, Mass.—Meets every Wednesday evening at 306 Main st. Pres., S. A. Stout, 130 Austin st.; R. S., V. V. Reed, 61 Myrtle st.; F. S., Chas. C. Coghlin, 113 West st.

No. 48, Decatur, Ill.—Meets at Cigarmakers' Hall, E. Main st. Pres., J. B. Mullenix, 611 Spring st.; F. S., F. E. Aldrich, 115 Wood st.

No. 49, Chicago, Ill.—Pres., F. J. Struble, 40 W. Division st.; R. S., Walter J. Dempsey, 153 Throop st.; F. S., Chas. Fowler, 219 W. Congress st.

No. 52, Davenport, Ia.—Meets 1st and 3d Tuesdays. Pres., A. L. Wheeler, Atlantic Hotel; R. S., J. H. Clarke, 215 Iowa st.

No. 53, Harrisburg, Pa.—Pres., C. A. Swager, 115½ Market st.; R. S., Jas. Emminger, 25 N. 15th st.; F. S., C. Aud-rson, 46 Summitt st.

No. 55, Des Moines, Ia.—Meets every Thursday night at Trades Assembly Hall. Pres., J. Fitzgerald, 1924 Siner st.; R. S., C. C. Ford, 715 Scott st.; F. S., M. O. Tracey, 212 Raceon st.

No. 56, Erie, Pa.—Meets 1st and 3d Wednesdays. Pres., P. Jacobs, 161 East 7th st.; R. S., L. E. Carson, 303 French st.; F. S., J. F. St. Clair, 708 French st.

No. 57, Salt Lake City, Utah—Sec'y, R. Blair, care Citizens' E. L. Co.

No. 60, San Antonio, Tex.—Meets 1st and 3d Saturdays at 8 p. m. in Painters' Hall, 131 Solidud st. Pres., Roy S. Cushman, 409 Wyoming st.; R. S., W. P. Anderson, 414 6th st.; F. S., M. E. McElroy, 1725 W. Commerce st.

No. 61, Los Angeles, Cal.—Pres., P. Buchanan, 357 N. Main st.; R. S., W. A. Woodis, Box 84 Station B; F. S., S. L. Brose, 432 Colyton st.

No. 62, Kalamazoo, Mich.—Pres., Leon Bellman, 1102 Porter st.; R. S., Wm. Thackeray, 1233 Portage st.; F. S., L. Burnett, 116 N. Church st.

No. 63, Warren, Pa.—Meets 1st and 3d Wednesdays at D. O. H. Hall, cor. 2d and Liberty sts. Pres., F. W. Terry, 414 Laurel st.; R. S., W. A. Pulliam, Exchange Hotel.

No. 65, Butte, Mont.—Meets 2d and 4th Wednesdays in Good Templars' Hall. Pres., E. A. Cherry, Care Mont. E. Co.; R. S., W. C. Medhurst, P. O. Box 848; E. M. DeMers, P. O. Box 846.

No. 66, Houston, Tex.—Meets 1st and 3d Mondays. Pres., Geo. O. Wood, 1203 Capital av.; R. S., W. P. Johnson, Telephone Office; F. S., W. P. Caywood, 1413 Franklin av.

No. 67, Quincy, Ill.—Meets 2d and 4th Wednesdays at Trades Assembly Hall, S. 8th st. Pres., W. F. Wagner, 351 Locust st.; L. O. Constan, 401 S. 9th st.; C. H. McNamee, 511 S. 7th st.

No. 68, Denver, Col.—Meets Monday nights at 1731 Arapho st., Club Bldg.; Pres., Chas. Salls-trom, 1051 Ogden st.; R. S., C. W. Armstrong, 2455 Lincoln av.; F. S., H. T. Clark, 808 14th st.

No. 69, Dallas, Tex.—Meets every Tuesday evening at Labor Hall. Pres., W. B. Courtney, 120 Emma st.; R. S., C. E. Bos on, 143 Emma st.; F. S., P. T. Barnes, 147 N. Akaid st.

No. 70, Springfield, Ill.—Meets 1st and 3d Thursdays, Carpenters' Hall, S. 4th st. Pres., Fred Miller, Staley Hotel; R. S., Chas. Daulison, 1118 E. Jackson st.; F. S., S. Phillips, 842 N. 3d st.

No. 71, Galveston, Tex.—Meets 2d and 4th Thursdays, Cooks and Waiters' Hall, 23d st., between Market and Mechanic. Pres., J. F. Payne, 1528 22d st.; R. S., D. L. Goble, 3320 R. 12 st.; F. S., D. K. Garrett, 1204 39th st.

No. 72, Waco, Tex.—Meets 2d and 4th Wednesdays at Labor Hall. Pres., J. E. Caple, 1018 N. 7th st.; R. S., W. D. Harold, 1801 Herring av.; F. S., Joseph Hodges, 728 S. 6th st.

No. 73, Spokane, Wash.—Meets 1st and 3d Wednesdays in K. of P. Hall, 316 Riverside av. Pres., Eli Hensley, 218 Riverside av.; R. S., G. Pagel, P. O. Box 635; F. S., C. C. Van Inwegen, P. O. Box 635.

No. 74, Winona, Minn.—Pres., H. B. Klein, 510 Olmstead st.; R. S., Dan Bahner, 161 Harvester av.; F. S., Joseph Trautner, 620 E. 3rd st.

No. 75, Grand Rapids, Mich.—Meets 1st and 3d Sundays. Pres., A. D. McLellan, 29 E. Bridge st.; R. S., C. Burns, care Citizens' Tel. Co.; F. S., C. E. Post, 132 Winter st.

No. 76, Tacoma, Wash.—Pres., Wm. Kane, 1136 D st.; R. S., W. J. Love, 113 10th st.; F. S., Jas. Murray, 1118 D st.

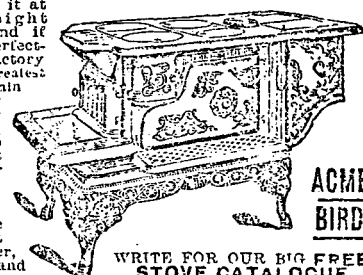
No. 77, Seattle, Wash.—Pres., J. J. Maitland, 231 Pontius av.; R. S., C. H. Randall, 815 2d av.; G. G. Jenkins, 1319 14th av.

No. 78, Saginaw, Mich.—Pres., Jas. Hodgins, 308 N. Franklin st.; R. S., John Strachan, 336 N. 2d st.; F. S., Chas. Ross, P. O. Box 225 E. S.

No. 80, Cleveland, O.—Pres., A. A. McDonald, 596 Superior st.; R. S., Maud Myles, 186 23d av.; F. S., N. Hall.

What opinion has the general public of Order in your locality? It is probably based upon the opinion of your local. Bear in mind that you are a member of it, and that the opinion of it is the opinion of you. If the opinion isn't the right one, you have the power to make it right.

SEND US ONE DOLLAR and this ad. and we will send you this big 325-lb. new 18-12 pattern high grade ACME BIRD COAL AND WOOD CUCKA STOVE, by freight C.O.D., subject to examination. Examine it at your freight depot and if found perfectly satisfactory and the greatest stove bargain you ever saw or heard of, pay the freight receipt and SPECIAL PRICE \$13.00 less the 21.00 sent with order, or \$2.00 and freight charges. This stove is size No. 8, oven is 16½" x 18½", top is 14½" x 22½"; made from best pig iron, extra large flues; heavy covers, heavy linings and grates, large oven shelf, heavy tin-lined oven door, handsome nickel-plated ornamental castings and trimmings, extra large deep genuine Standish porcelain-lined reservoir, handsome large ornamental base. Best coal burner ever made, and we furnish FREE an extra wood grate, making it a perfect wood burner. WE ISSUE A BURNING GUARANTEE with every stove and guarantee safe delivery to your railroad station. Your local dealer will charge you \$25.00 for such a stove: the freight is only about \$1.00 for each 500 miles, so we save you at least \$10. Add one SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), CHICAGO. (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable—Editor.)



WRITE FOR OUR BIG FREE STOVE CATALOGUE

SOME PICTURES.

BY ANN ARKIST.

I sat smoking in the sunshine, on a summer afternoon,
Thinking of some things that's past and gone,
When I saw a large procession a passing by the gate,
Whereat I wondered at the queer and motly throng.
There were sullen, scowling faces, showing years of toil and labor,
Some men haggard, others drawn with a frown;
Few were cheerful, none were happy, I could tell by scanning close,
All were gathered from the country and the town.
They tramped with measured paces, to a screaming life and drum;
And banners bore on high with strange device;
Telling of their craft and wishes, their sufferings and their woes,
In language plain, but these not over nice.
I followed at a distance to where this horde had clogged;
A many thousand of them gathered there;
"Our rights," "Our dues!" they shouted in loud and angry voice,
And brawny fist, and clubs swung in the air.

* * * * *

I beheld another picture; 'twas most pleasing to the eye;
A palatial home of splendor great,
'Twas filled from end to garret with gold and silken niches,
Rare jewels, costly paintings, silver plate.
In every nook and corner were statues from all climes,
And other treasures from deep down in mother earth;
Ah, 'twas gorged and stuffed to bursting with all kinds of useless trash,
The gathering of which caused many a desolate hearth.
From my stand I saw fair people, clothed and decked in finery grand,
Who never soiled their hands with honest work;
But who enjoy the best gathered from far and distant land,
By those who from life's labor never shirk.
And they enjoy the thrift of all who toil from dawn 'til night,
Yet never gave a thought to those poor slaves.
"He who hath much shall be given more," the good old Bible reads;
Of course the good old Bible must be right.
Then another scene presented itself to my horror stricken gaze,

A squatter stricken home I have in mind;
The family of a miner, who delves in a black hole,
Whose life is but the one damnation grind.
His soul is but his master's from early morn to night,
And slaves but for a pittance he receives;
His labor keeps from freezing when old cold winter comes,
For which he only asks what's his by right.
Aye, thousands of those self same "homes" range themselves before my eye,
and discontent seems rampant everywhere;
Half-clothed, half-starved, they struggle on in never ceasing toil,
A miserable existence—with the palace to compare.
I seek to find the fault of these most horrible conditions,
Of those who are born equal on this earth,
Ah! "Starvation wages," "Emigration," "Trusts" and "Monopoly,"
Greed of "grinding corporations," also "luxury from broth."
Just then I saw a shadow of a picture passing by,
'Twas so different that I could but truly stare;
A funeral procession, wending towards the home of sleeping dead,
The hearse bore clay of one a millionaire.
"His soul has gone to heaven," I overheard them say;
"In never-ending joy he'll sing God's praise,"
He built up a great church with money others earned;
Memorials by the score he did upraise.
"Did he ever feed the starving or lift the undertrod?"
Or aught but of himself did ever think?"
So they said he'd gone to heaven, well, I have my doubts of that;
I seem to see him standing on hell's brink.
He did not his treasure hide "where moth nor rust corrode,"
But heaped it up for some one to spend all,
Now he's just about to get dues; not those we clamor for,
For you know the "greater height, the worse the fall."
Then I heard about a picture, that I journeyed far to see,
Of a land where all who dwelled were satisfied;
There was no want nor worry, no rich nor poor lived there,
Where in love and kindness each one vied.
No discontent or starving, no slaves were bought or sold,

No millionaires or poor dwelled in that land;
'Twas as near to like an heaven as ever I did see,
Though the streets were not of gold or silver sand.
It was filled with pretty children and happy parents, too,
And all men called as brother or as friend;
Ah, 'twas gladdening to the heart to live in a world like that,
The millenium had come unto us then.
A Crash—my pipe was broken; I was sitting in my chair;
'Twas gone—I awakened with a scream.
No happy land, no heaven, I saw the same old world,
It was but the happy mystery of a dream.

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